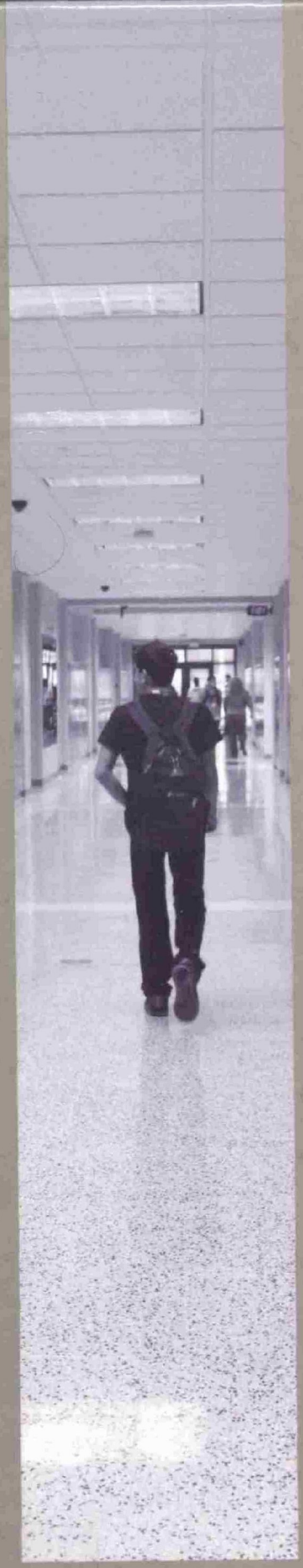
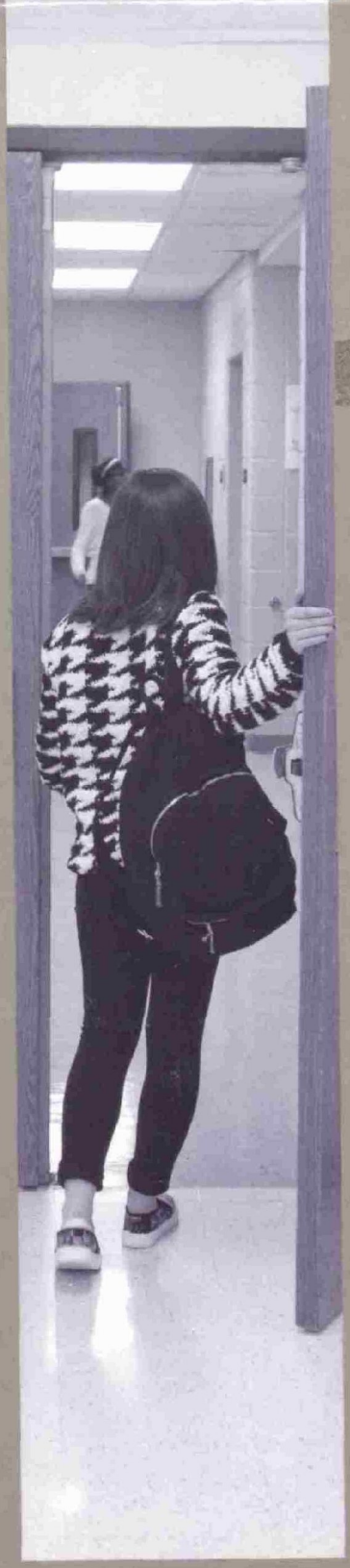
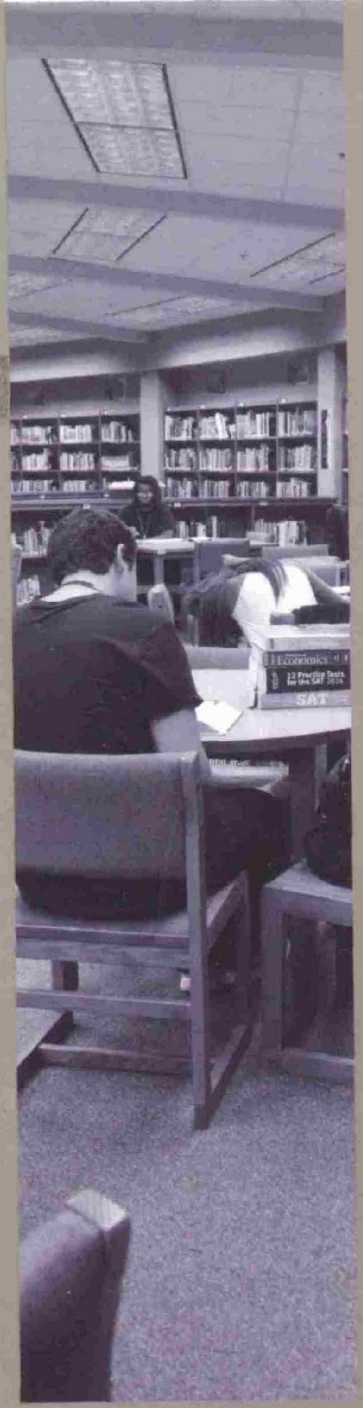
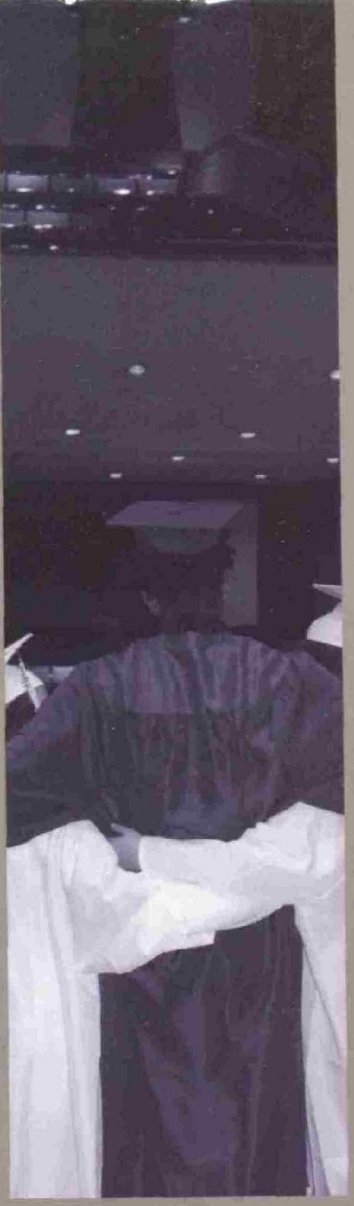








We

We *lived*

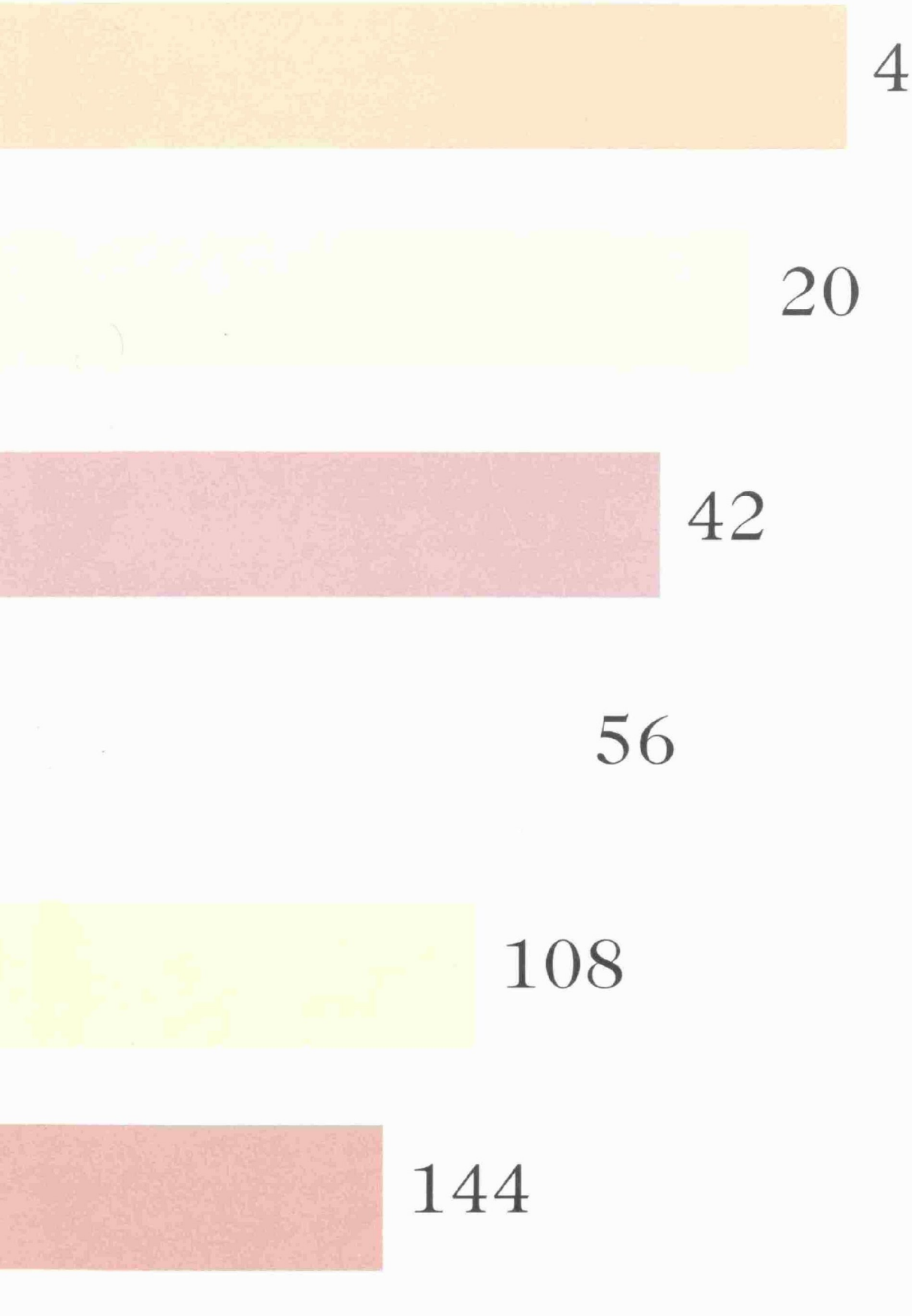
We *succeeded*

We *participated*

We *competed*

We *posed*

We *conquered*


4
20
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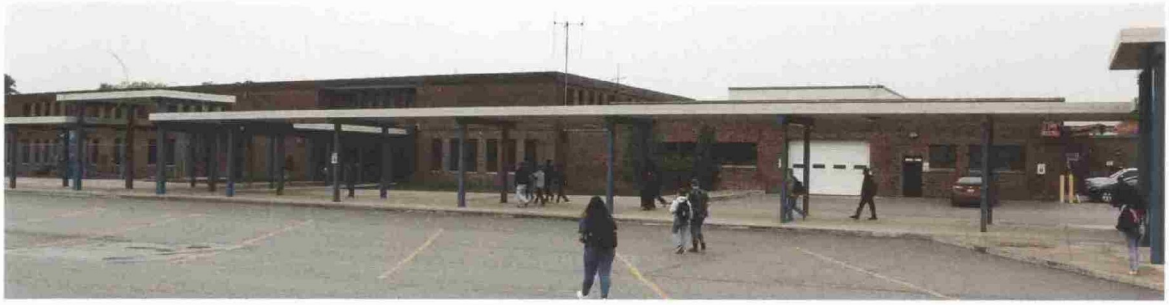
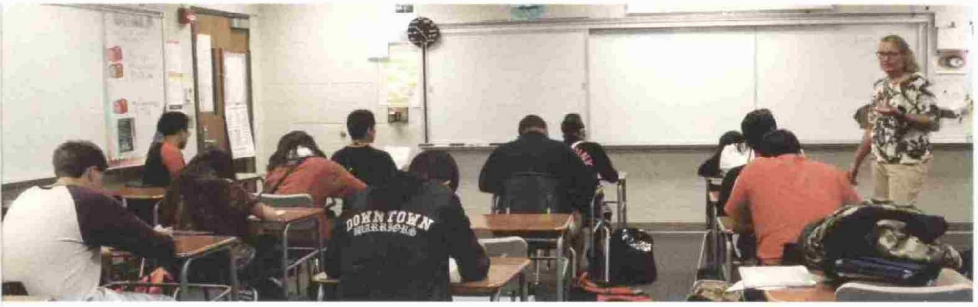
We *came*

We *saw*



We *endured*



We *conquered*

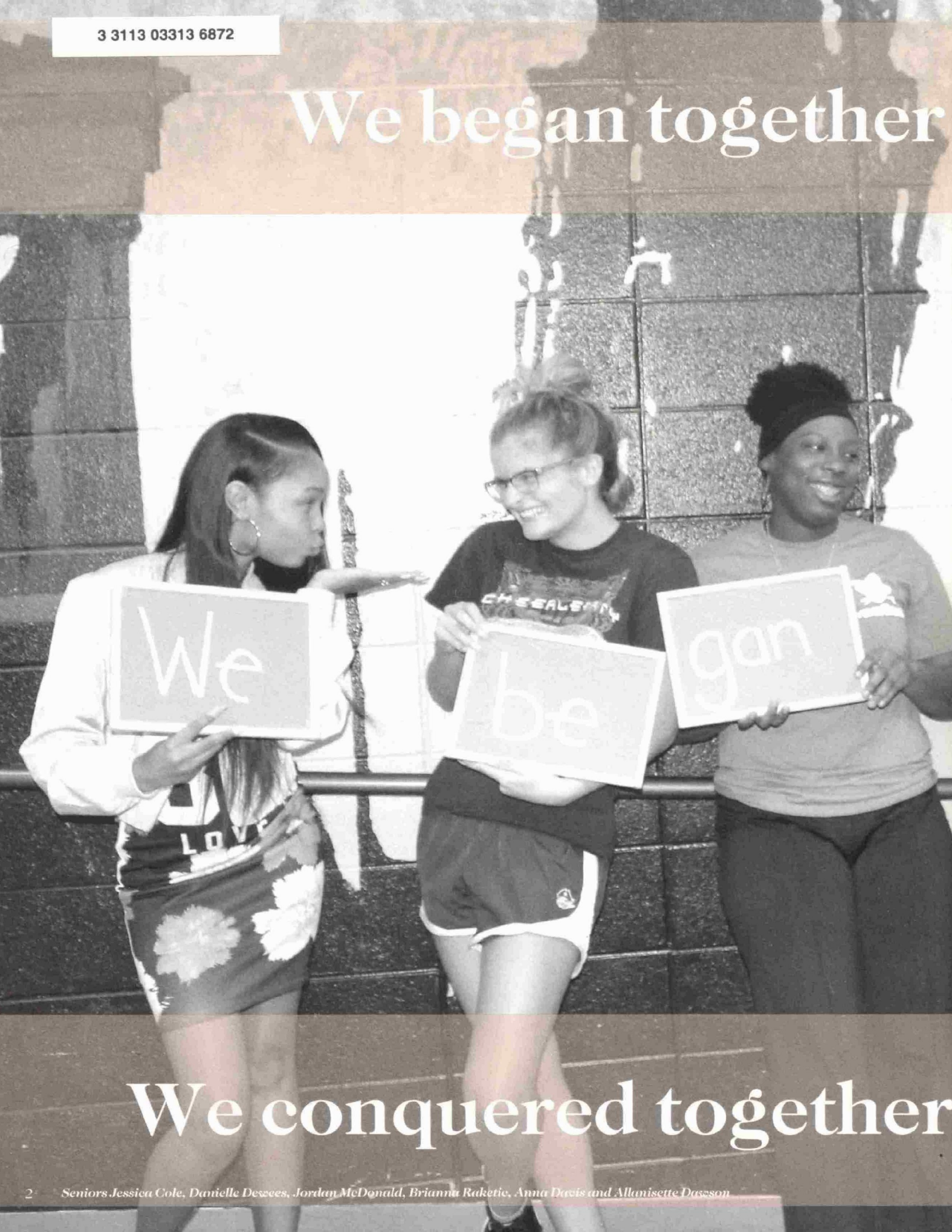
Merrillville High School
Merrillvue Vol. 91
276 East 68th Place
Merrillville, Indiana 46410
(219)-650-5307
www.mvsc.k12.in.us/mhs
Enrollment: 2164

We

LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

3 3113 03313 6872

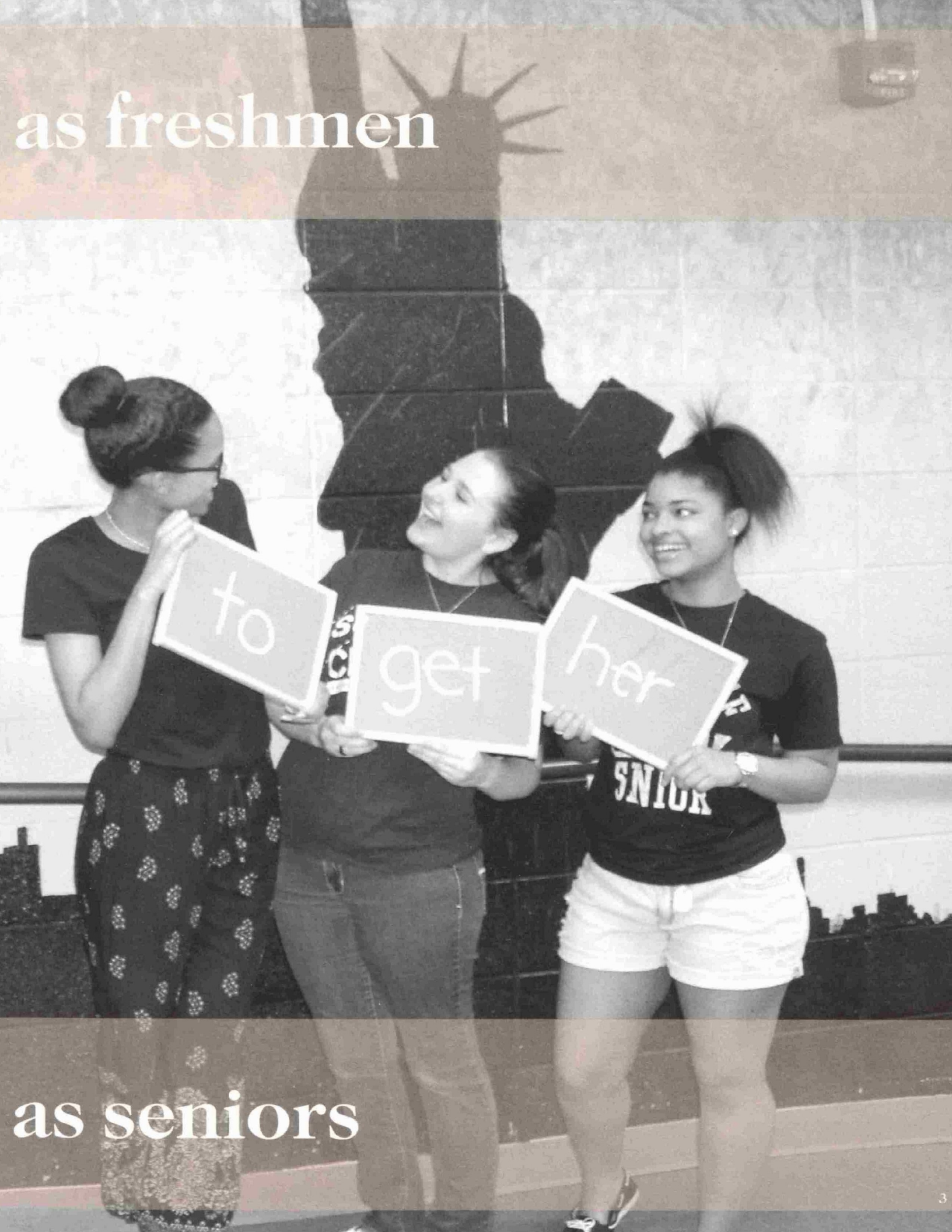
We began together



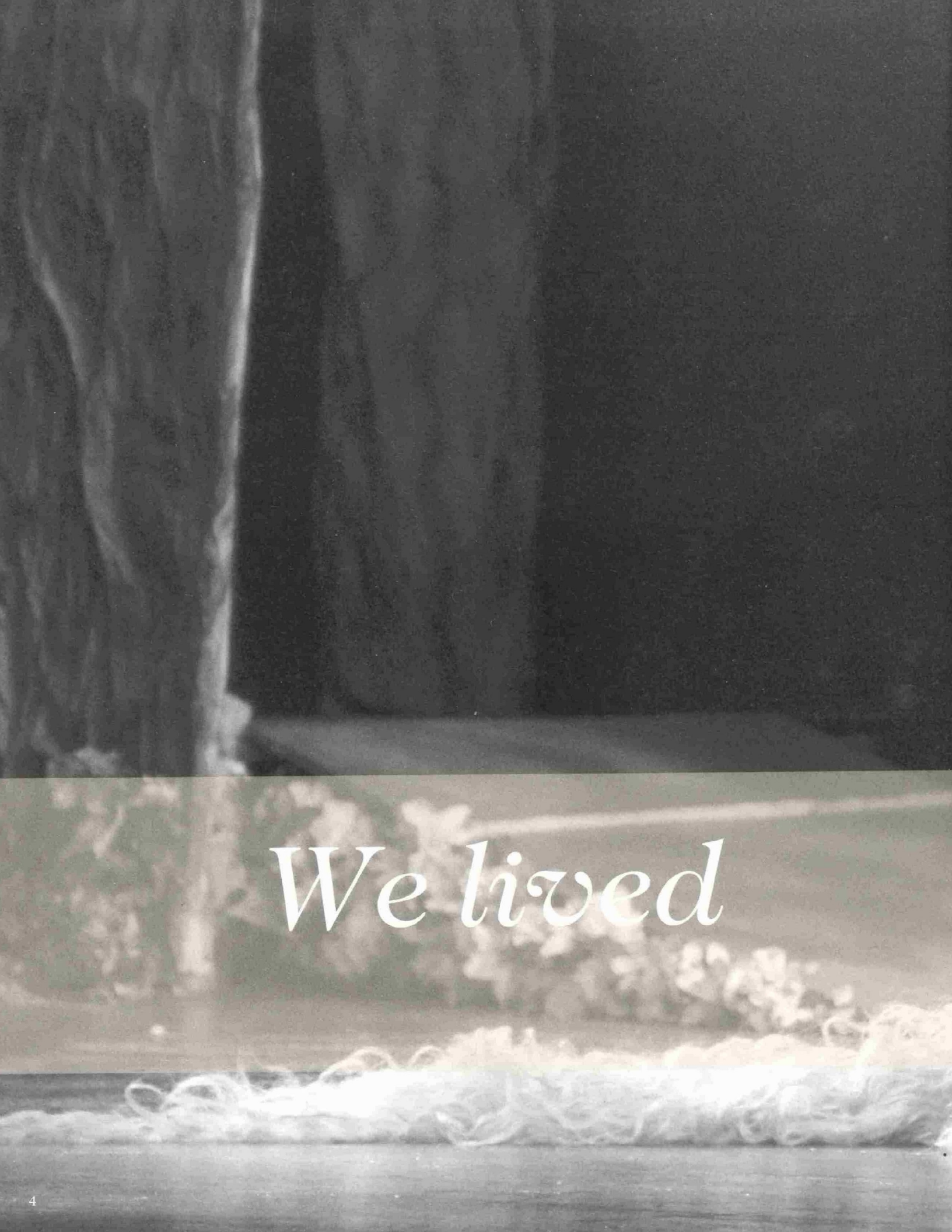
We conquered together

Seniors Jessica Cole, Danielle Dewees, Jordan McDonald, Brianna Raketic, Anna Davis and Allanisette Dawson

as freshmen



as seniors


We lived

"Th[illegible] because nobody really does it anymore, so it's special to me to hold onto tradition so it doesn't die."
Junior Tyrese Thomas

[illegible] classes, so I'm a creative person. [illegible] creative side of me keeps me sane."
Junior Scarlett Smith

"I decided to participate because I don't want to look back and see I've done nothing."
Senior Sharod Holmes Jr.

[illegible] I became interested at [illegible] enjoyed working backstage

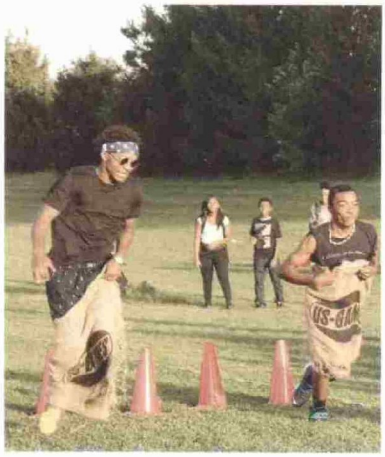
"We've been best friends since seventh grade, so it felt fun and cute and different to be dressed the same as someone else."
Junior Taylor Upshaw

"I felt warm inside. It felt like I was doing something good, like I was helping the community."
Senior Adam Serros

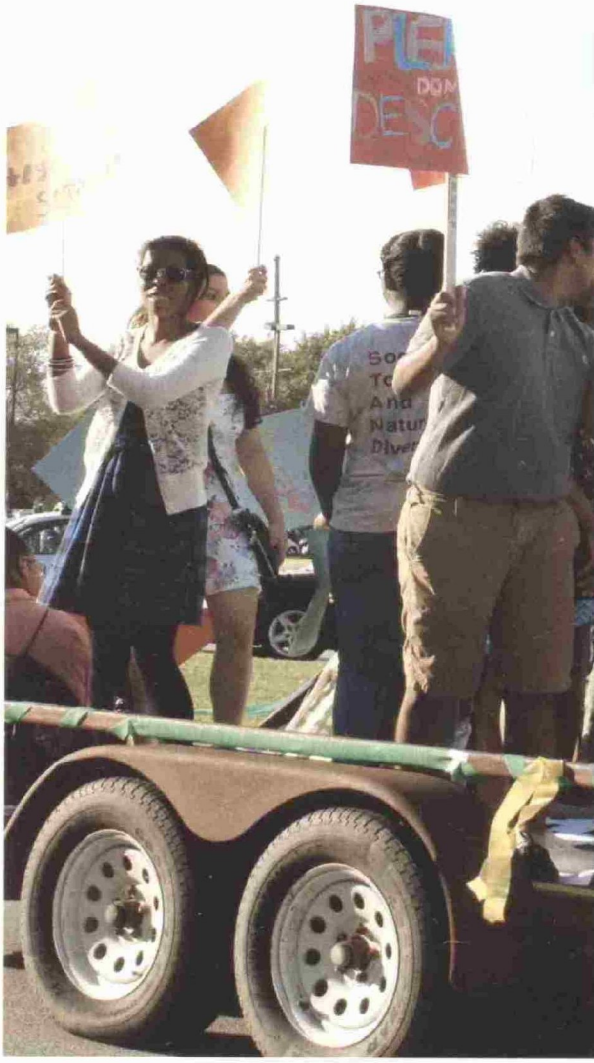
[illegible] feeling that we don't [illegible]."
Sophomore George Pawosky

Sophomore Cardalina Hernandes in the role of Rapunzel in the spring musical, "Into the Woods"

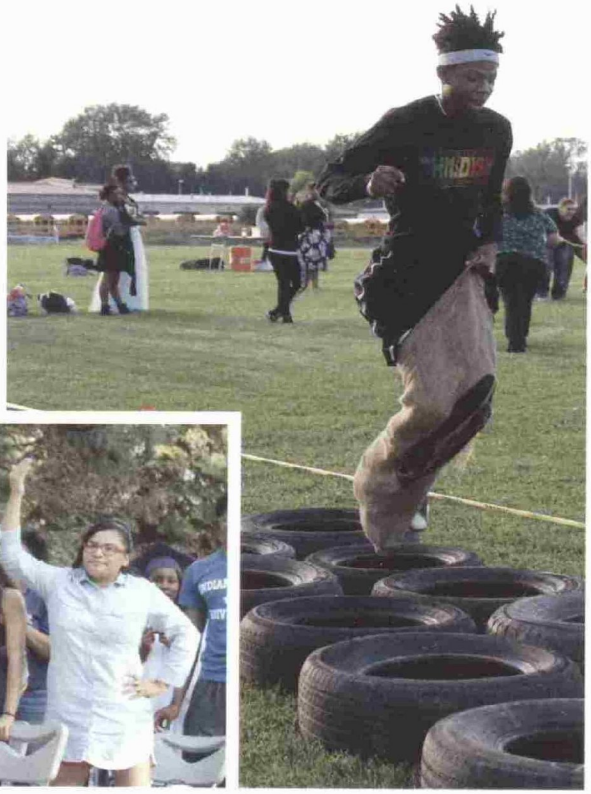
Students show their spirit

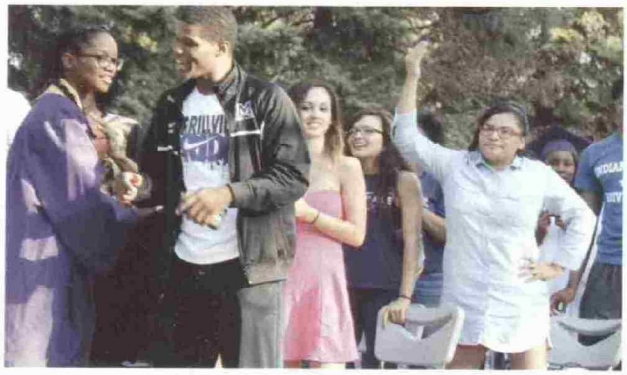


Top: Before Senior Erika McClinton crowns Senior Hunter Kaiser Homecoming Queen, she tries to smooth Kaiser's hair that was tousled by the wind. Kaiser said she was a good nominee because she represents the school well by getting good grades and being involved. To campaign, Kaiser said she "bought cupcakes, candy bags, shirts and posters" and paid for everything with the money she had saved. Left: As he jumps to the finish line in the sack race, Sophomore Daniel Carey pushes to win the competition. "It was fun because I had never done this before," Carey said. Carey won the event.



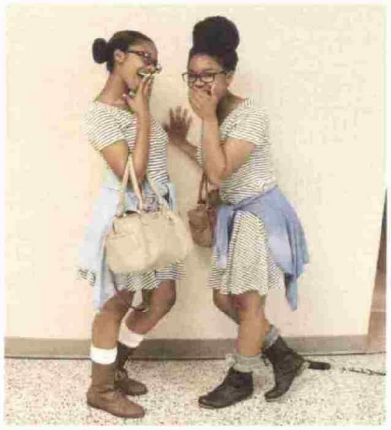
Right: While taking part in the obstacle course, Senior Sharod Holmes Jr. jumps through tires. "I decided to participate because I don't want to look back and see I've done nothing," Holmes said. The seniors went on to win the Goofy Games. Holmes beat the juniors in the sack race.



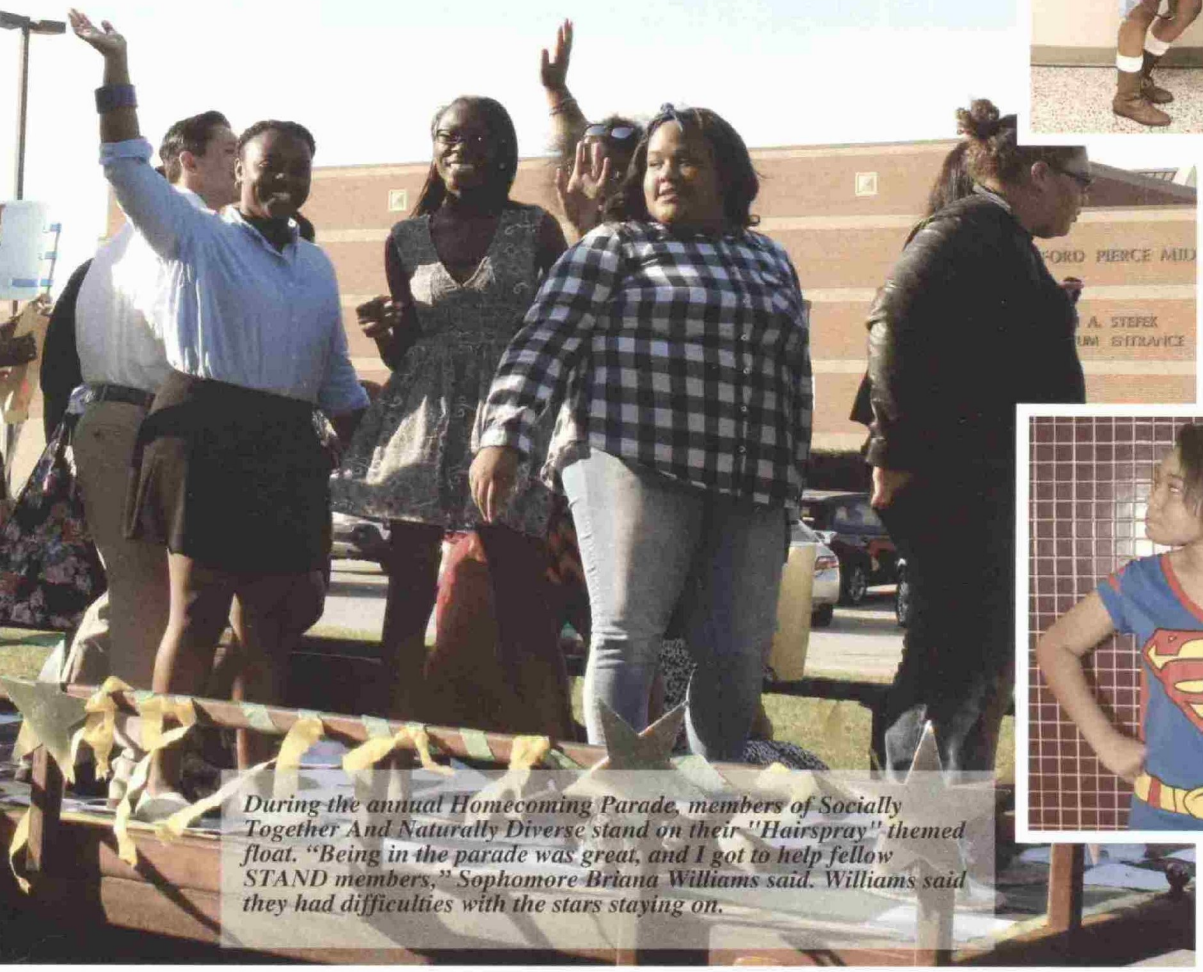


Elated to play the role of Taylor McKessie from "High School Musical 3," Senior Angela Terry waves to the crowd watching the parade. "I believe that the seniors won because we had a lot of spirit," Terry said. While the seniors won the class parade floats, the Freshman Mentors captured the prize for the extra-curricular club floats.

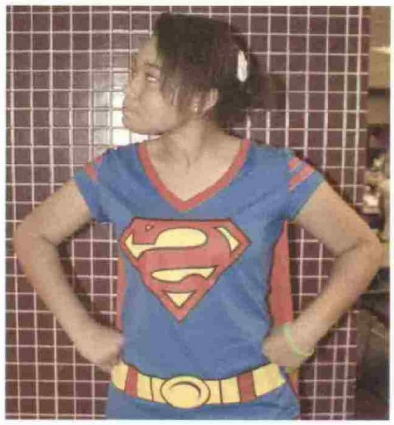
Ready to engage in the tug of war against the freshmen, Seniors Katrina Wallace and Brandon Bellamy stand at the center of the rope marked with a handerkerchief. "I led the charge and that is why we won," Bellamy said.



With her best friend JuniorJaeLenn Johnson, Junior Taylor Upshaw shares an outfit and a laugh as they participate in Twin Day Tuesday. "We've been best friends since seventh grade, so it felt fun and cute and different to be dressed the same as someone else," Upshaw said.

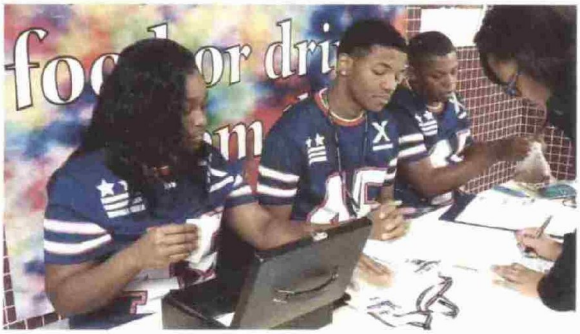


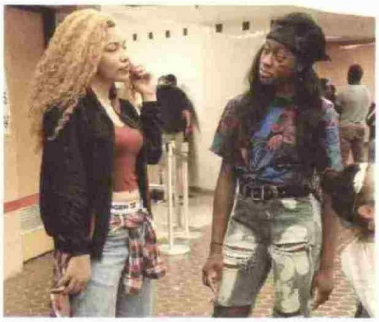
During the annual Homecoming Parade, members of Socially Together And Naturally Diverse stand on their "Hairspray" themed float. "Being in the parade was great, and I got to help fellow STAND members," Sophomore Briana Williams said. Williams said they had difficulties with the stars staying on.



On Superhero Monday, Sophomore Nicole Hollowell dresses in her Superman T-shirt with cape. "I dressed up because I wanted to match my friend, Chris Howard," Hollowell said. She said that even though she had on a Superman T-shirt, her favorite superhero is Batman's sidekick Robin.

Left: At halftime of the football game, Senior Shawn Streck shakes hands with Head Coach Brad Seiss after Streck is named Mr. Football. Streck said he was surprised to win. "It was pretty cool to win. Only one person wins a year, so it was a pretty big accomplishment," Streck said. Bottom: Dressing as triplets on Twin Day Tuesday, Seniors Rashawn Mills and best friends Lacy Bridgeman and Jayson Jones wear matching jerseys to participate in Spirit Week. "They went to the mall, called me up and told me they found some real cute shirts we could wear for Twin Day, and I was all in," Mills said. "It was a great idea to do it together because it's our last opportunity because it's senior year."





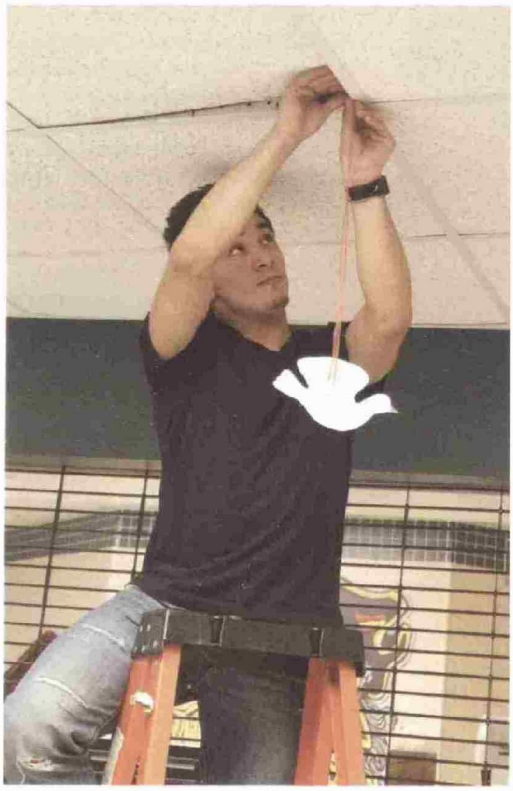
In '90s attire and posing with Senior Angel Munchenburg, Senior Ashley Ojo takes part in Decades Day Thursday. "I feel like I should've been born in the '80s so I could be raised in the '90s," Ojo said. "How baggy their clothes were, so comfortable and carefree."

Moving to the music of the dance

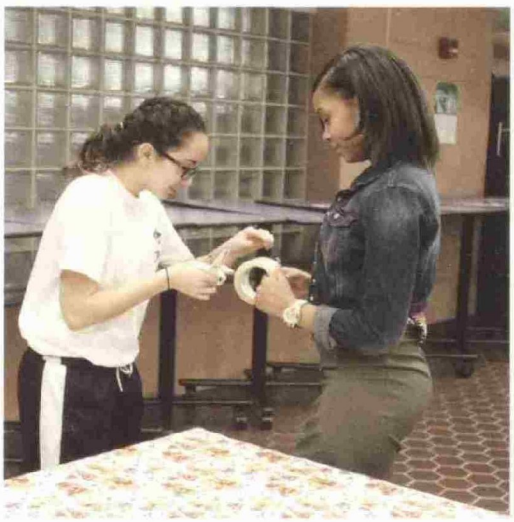
On the dance floor, Senior Katrina Yon dances with her friend, Jenise Allen. "It was fun," Yon said. "I like dancing the Whip and Nae Nae."

While at the dance, Freshman Hanna Stevens moves to the music. "I loved the decorations and the music," Stevens said. Stevens said that she would go again because she liked the dance. Family, Consumer and Career Leaders of America sponsor the dance each year for MHS students and alumni, as well as students from other schools.

In a conga line, Sophomore George Perosky enjoys his night at the dance. "It was fun," Perosky said. "It was something different that we don't do a lot." Perosky said his favorite song was "Watch Me" by Silentó.

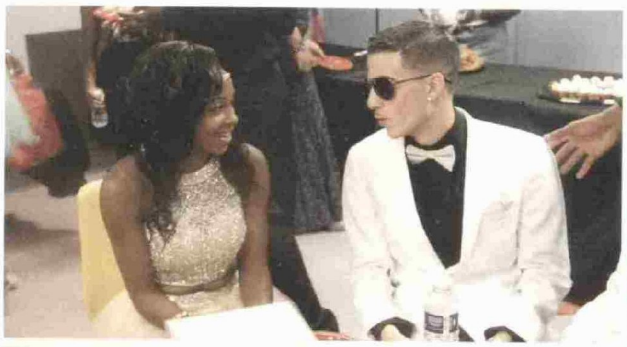


Left: Setting up for the annual dance, Senior Adam Serros hangs up decorations. "I felt warm inside," Serros said. "It felt like I was doing something good, like I was helping the community." He said that being with friends from his class was the best moment for him because they are going to graduate soon. Below: Before the dance, Seniors Jillian Manis, Jamie Bhe and Courtney Chaves set up tables in the main cafeteria. "I thought it was nice to see the school putting something together," Chaves said.

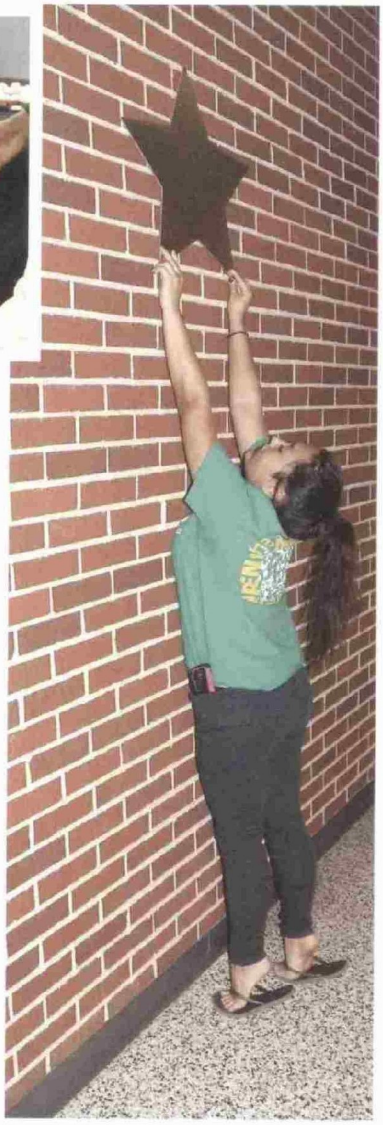


To decorate for the dance, Seniors Claribell Quinones and Jessica Cole tape wrapping paper onto the tables in the main cafeteria. "It felt good. I was excited to see how the kids would react to the dance," Quinones said. "Fundraising and various donations helped provide gift bags for the students," FCCLA Co-President Senior Jamie Bhe said.

In the food room, Sophomore Joseph Aponte talks to his girlfriend, Freshman Kennedy Johnson, about their plans after the dance. "The night was great because I got to spend time with my girlfriend and friends after the dance," Aponte said. Aponte said he went to the dance to show everyone how nice he looked dressed up.



Taking a break from dancing, Senior Justen Gordon talks with his friends, Seniors Darius Adams and Imani Purnell, about how their night is going. "I went this year because I wanted to make it a four-year thing," Gordon said. "I've been going since my freshman year." Gordon said the music showed more diversity with the songs the disc jockey played, making it the best year.

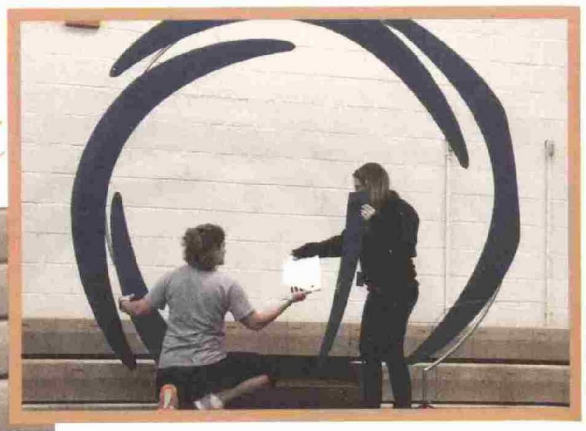


Before the festivities begin, Senior Sara Ramirez decorates the Hall of Flags with gold stars for the Homecoming Dance. "The most difficult part was finding out where to set up all the props," Ramirez said. Since the theme was Red Carpet, incorporating the colors red, silver and black was key.

Homecoming Week ended with 1100 students crowding the dance floor in the Hall of Flags. "Celebrating my last Homecoming with my best friend was the highlight of the night," Senior Angela Terry said.

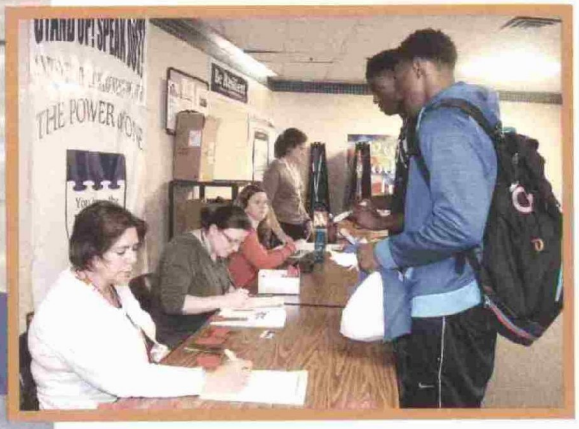
Students roll out red carpet

Prepping for a special night

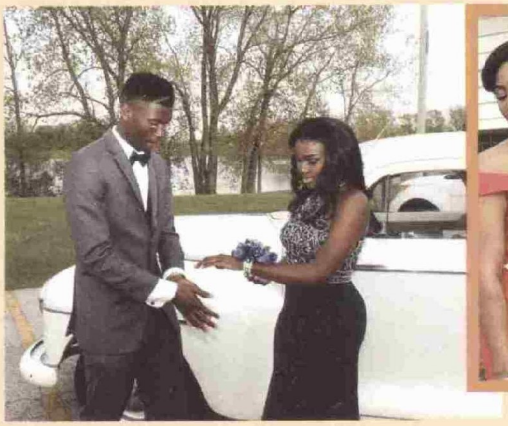


Decorating for the Grand March, Ms. Sara Stallings and Mrs. Sarah Daniels check the directions on putting together an arch. "I wanted to make sure everything was nice for the students going to Prom," Mrs. Daniels said. Ms. Stallings said that the reward of seeing the kids happy and enjoying themselves outweighs the hard work.

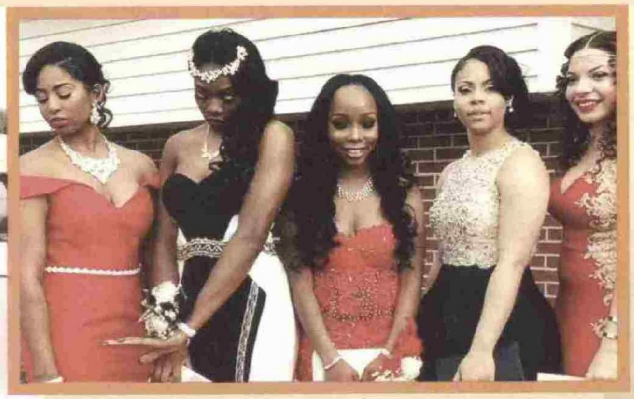
While getting ready for the Grand March, Mrs. Melissa Valsi puts together cardboard buildings for part of the decorations for the theme, "Enchanted Evening." I've done this since I started working here," Mrs. Valsi said. "It's fun to do." Mrs. Valsi said that the best part of helping out with Prom was trying to figure out songs.



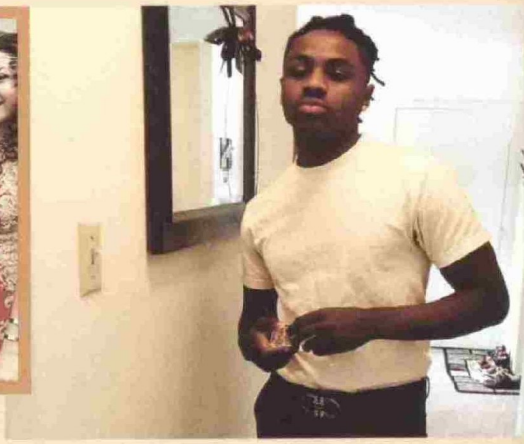
While selling tickets for Prom, Ms. Pat Smith checks if students' names are on the list. "I think the Prom is so much fun and everybody looks so beautiful," Ms. Smith said. Ms. Smith said her favorite part of Prom was seeing all of the students at their best.



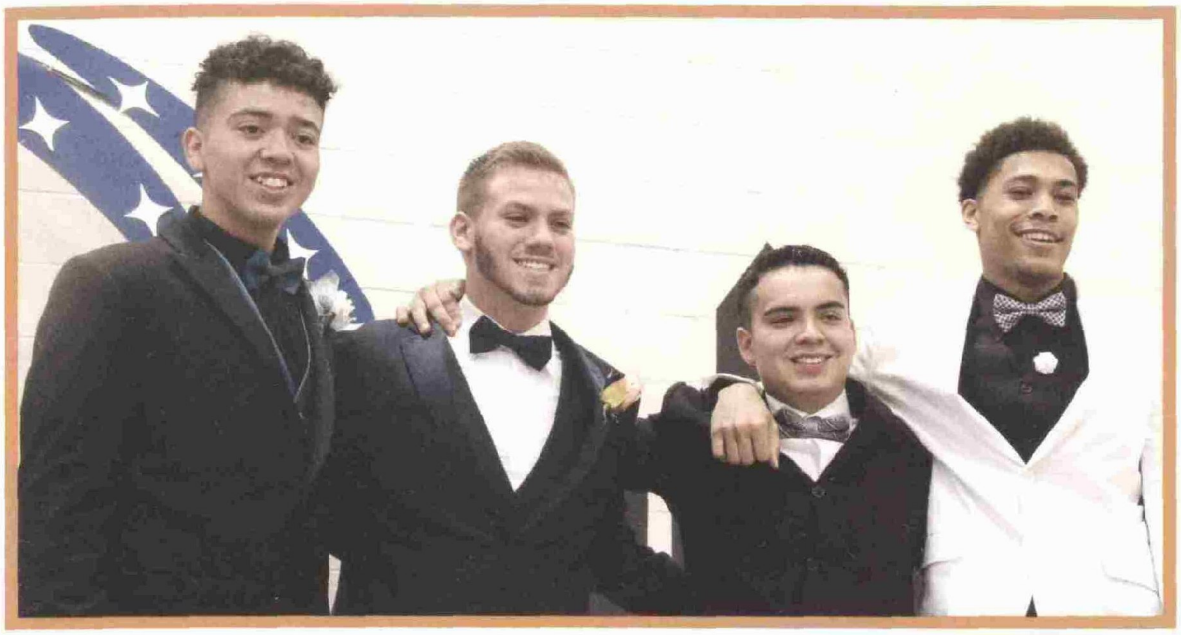
As his date, Ngozi Ude, adjusts her corsage, Senior Matthew Meux gets ready to have his picture taken. Meux said he had to get his hair cut after school before going home to take a nap. "I knew it was going to be a fun night and weekend," Meux said. "I had a feeling it was going to be a great time with people I loved."



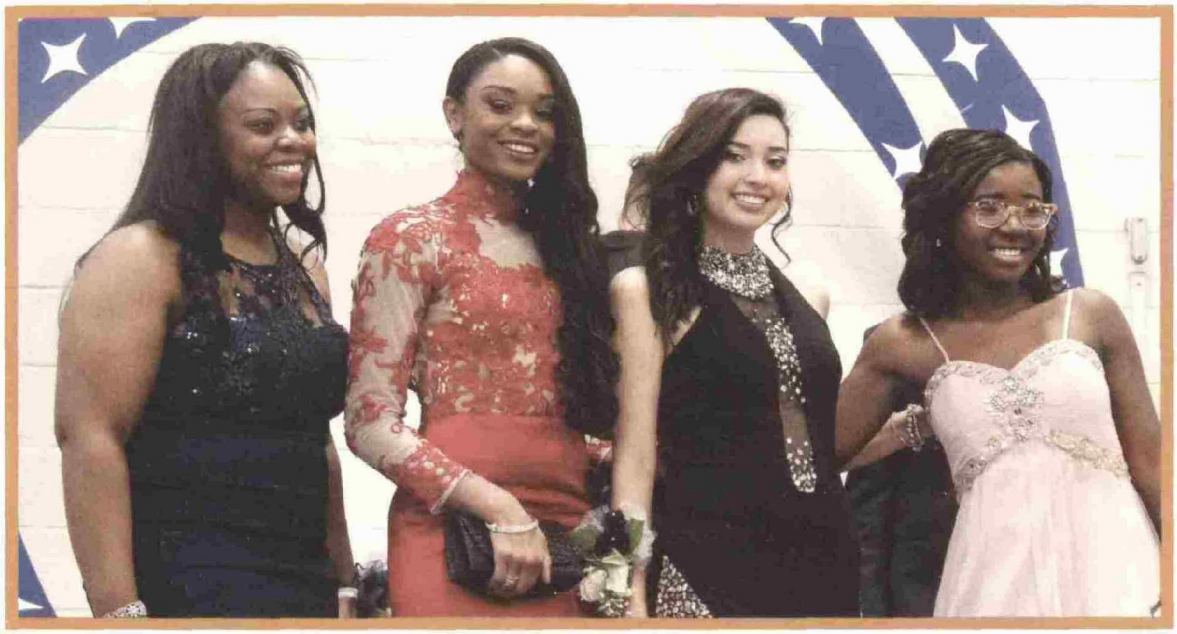
Junior Torian Bryant, Seniors Ashiala Jackson and Amari Bradley, Junior JayLynn Hardrick and Senior Jayna Moore get together before Prom. "Everyone met up at my house," Hardrick said. "After school, I got my hair and my makeup done. I was the last one done. That's why we met at my house." Hardrick said her favorite part of prepping for Prom was finding her dress.



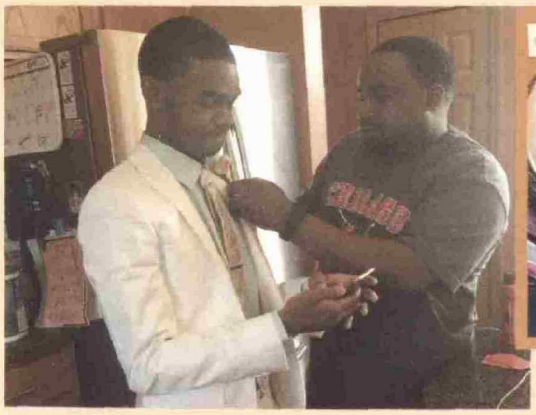
After picking up his Prom attire, Senior Jermaine Davis II gets ready to put on his Louis Vuitton cologne. Davis said he didn't find the idea of Prom as much a big deal as everyone else made it seem, but he was happy that he chose to go because he knew he would regret it later if he chose not to go. "Dressing up was the best part of the whole night," Davis said. "I just like looking all spiffy."



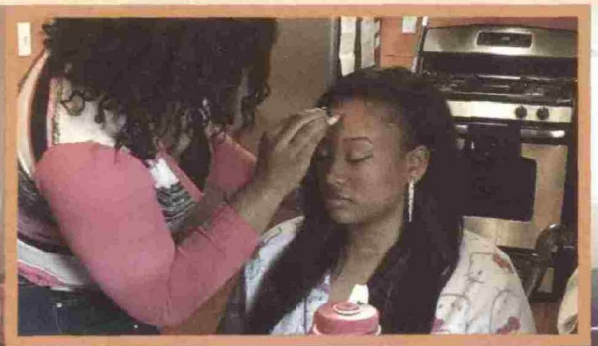
Juniors Steffan Santiago, Kyle Klingaman, Alan Martinez and Cameron Wilbon await the naming of Prom King. Candidates campaigned by hanging posters and giving out treats.



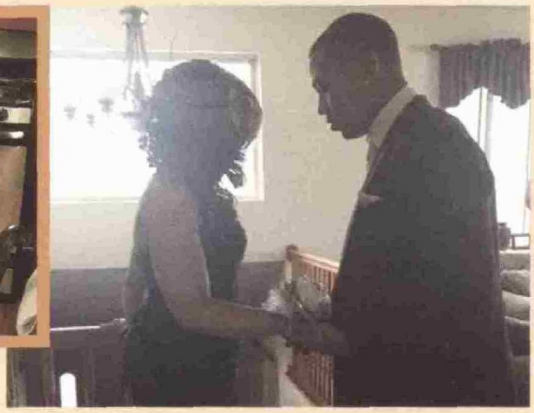
After Principal Mr. Michael Kruts announced the king, Juniors Leah Ray, Alexus Shirrells, Rachel Rodrigues and Morgan Brinker await the naming of Prom Queen. Teachers nominate the candidates, and Promgoers vote for their choice when they purchase tickets.



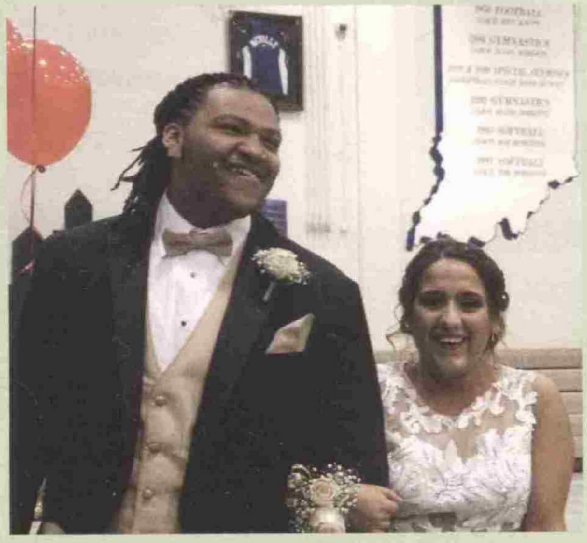
While his dad fixes his boutonniere, Senior Drelen Williams sends his date a text. Williams said he was running behind schedule, causing him to get ready within 30 minutes. "This was my first time going, so everything was new," Williams said. "I just wanted to see how everything was going to pan out and see what everyone was going to wear."



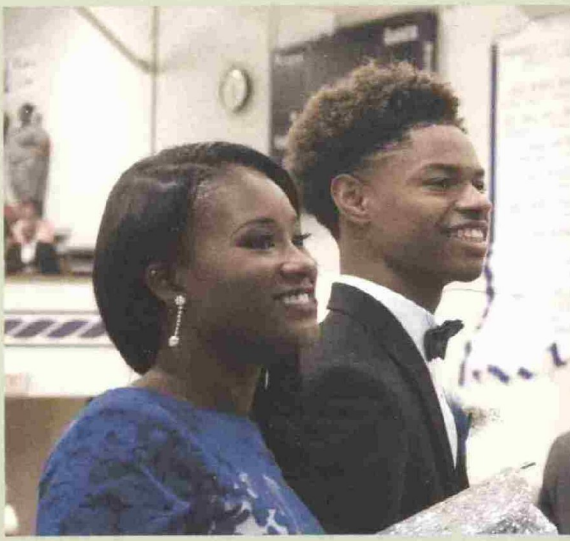
Eyes closed, Junior Antonia' West sits while her sister puts on her makeup. "It was worth it because it allowed me to see how it was going to be for next year and what I can change to make it better," West said. West said her favorite part of prepping for Prom was getting to dress up and see herself transform.

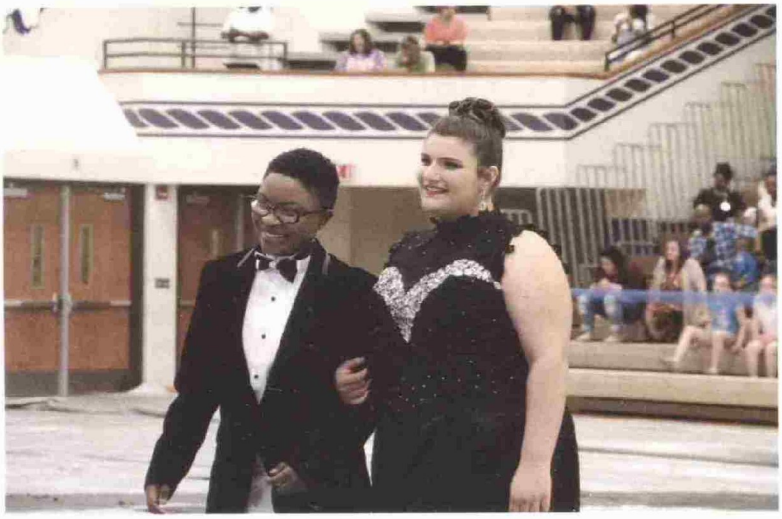


Looking down at Senior Deja Morris's wrist, Sophomore KeShawn Lilly puts on her corsage. "My favorite thing about prepping for Prom was looking in the mirror," Lilly said. "I went because I'm a sophomore and I wanted to experience something new." Lilly said he plans to attend Prom next year.

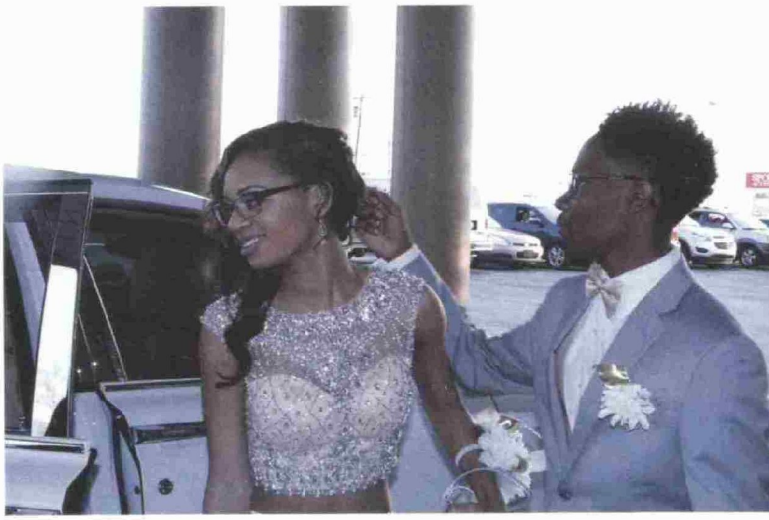


Left: After taking over five hours to prepare for Prom, Junior Autumn Carrero walks the Grand March arm in arm with her date Senior Donald Hunter. "Since I'm just a junior, Prom will be much better next year," Carrero said. Carrero said the best part of her date was that he looked very nice and was a gentleman. Right: Juniors Timoya Bryant and Mahqueese McMillan smile for the crowd at Grand March. McMillan said he was excited to be going to Prom for the first time. "My date was so beautiful and fun," McMillan said. "We literally danced all night." McMillan and his date ended the night at an Italian restaurant in Chicago.

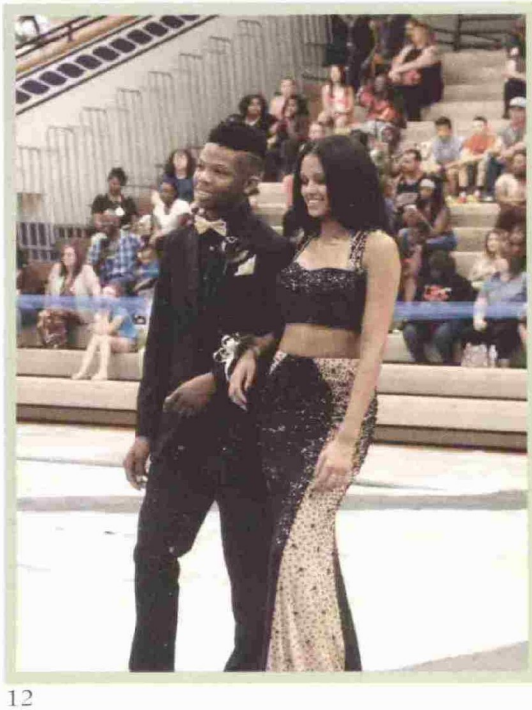


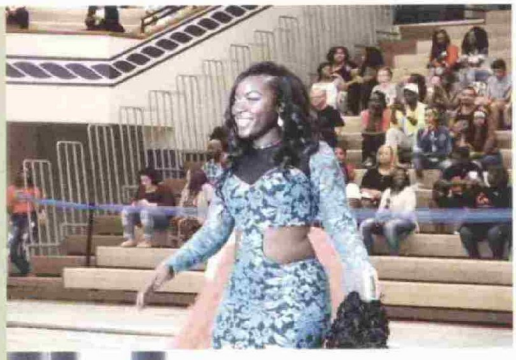


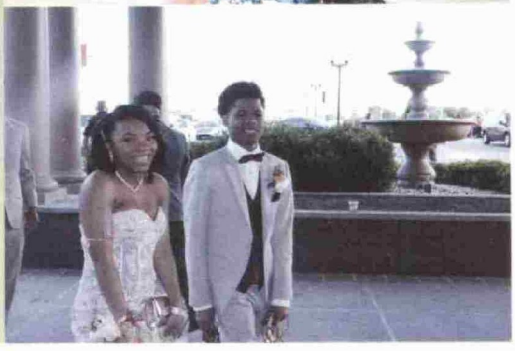
Standing with Senior Mary Turcotte, Senior Promise Blakely smiles for the camera at the Grand March. Blakely said that she got ready at the last minute for Prom. "I actually wasn't going to go to Prom because I didn't see a point to," Blakely said. "But my friends talked me into going, and I'm really glad they did because I enjoyed myself." Blakely and her friends ended their fun night dining at Luxbar in Chicago.



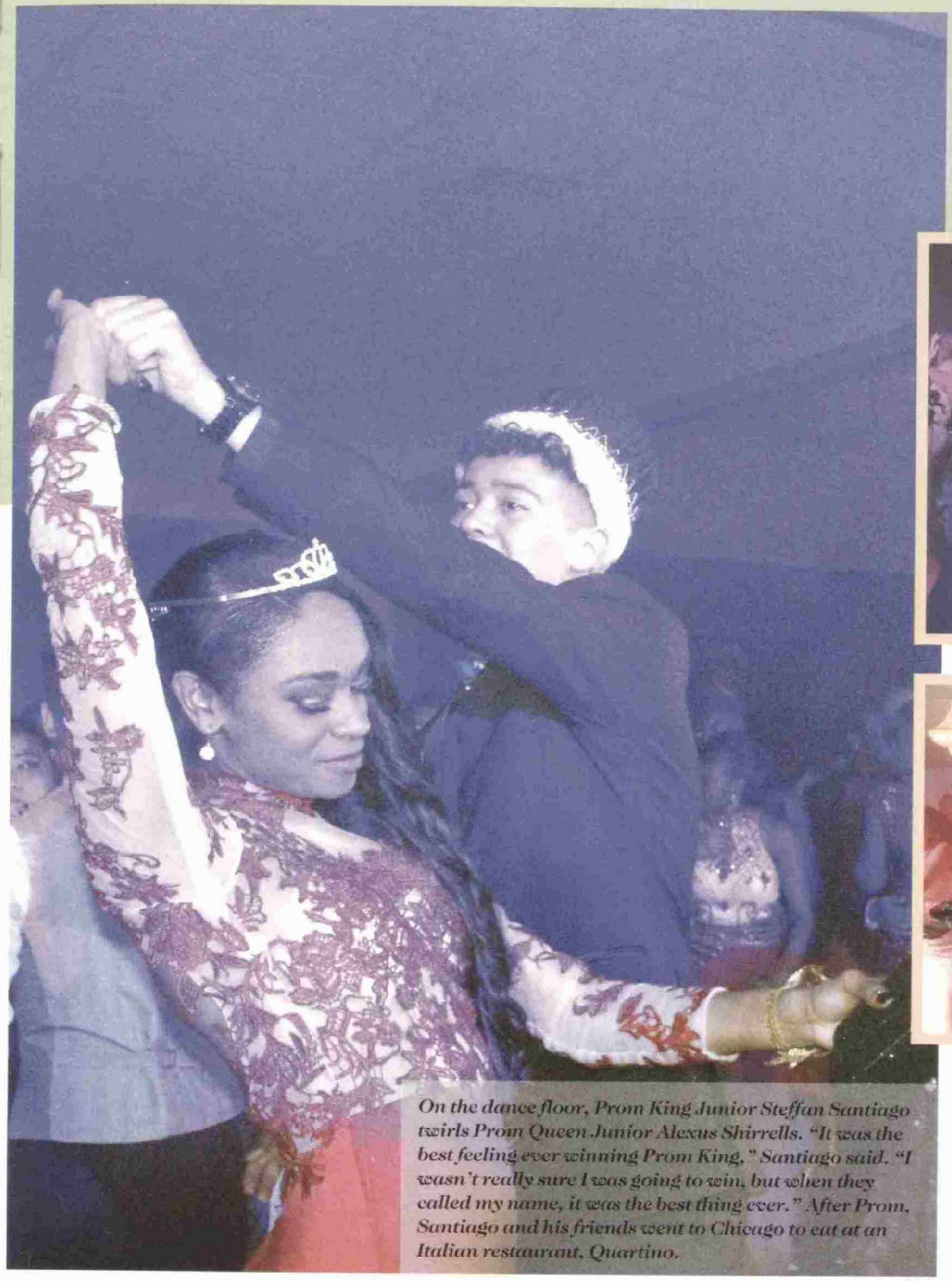
Helping his date out of the car, Senior Joshua Bradley plays with Senior Alexis Anderson's hair. "The best part about Prom night was being with my beautiful date, but the next best thing was driving in that Rolls-Royce," Bradley said. Bradley said it was bittersweet knowing that this was his last night really hanging out with his friends.





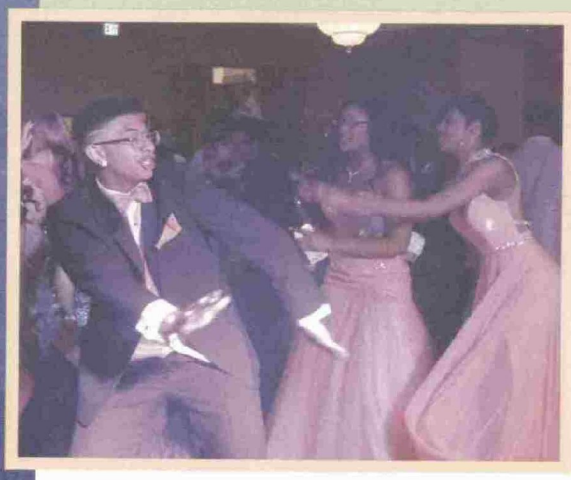


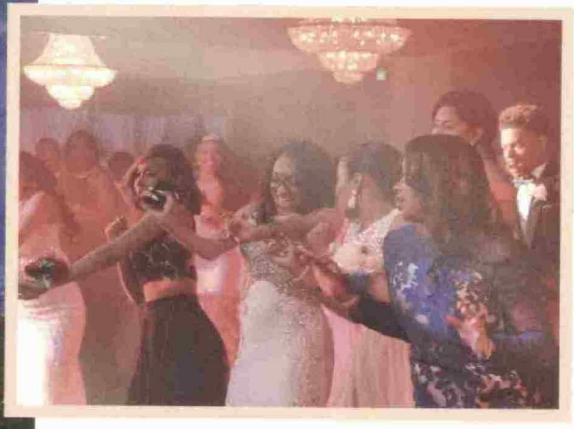
Far left: With arms interlocked, Senior Sharod Holmes Jr. and Senior Brianna Raketic walk down the Grand March. Raketic said their night was fun because they went to see Captain America after Prom. "We had so much fun, and Sharod was such a cool person to be around," Raketic said. Top right: At the Grand March, Senior Kapreacia Mims stops and smiles for pictures. "Being my first year going to Prom, I liked how everyone had fun. I liked the wings and celery," Mims said. After Prom, she went to Theo's Steaks & Seafood in Highland with her friends and their dates. Over the weekend, she went to her boyfriend's house. Bottom right: As she walks into the Avalon Manor with her date Senior Tomas Rodrigues, Senior Me'Oesha Hill is ready to start her exciting night on the dance floor. "My date was the perfect gentleman, and the music wasn't as bad as I thought it was going to be," Hill said. "So I really enjoyed my night."



On the dance floor, Prom King Junior Steffan Santiago twirls Prom Queen Junior Alexus Shirrells. "It was the best feeling ever winning Prom King," Santiago said. "I wasn't really sure I was going to win, but when they called my name, it was the best thing ever." After Prom, Santiago and his friends went to Chicago to eat at an Italian restaurant, Quartino.

Hitting the Quan, Senior Julian Jernigan enjoys himself at Prom with his two dates, Seniors Regan and Riley Strong. "My first date canceled on me, so I asked my best friend, and she has a twin sister, so why not have two dates," Jernigan said.





Dancing together at Prom, Juniors Anya Johnson and Mya Wilson enjoy themselves at the Avalon Manor. Johnson arrived at Prom with Senior David Hinton and Junior Maxwell Moore in a Tesla. "Going by yourself keeps you less tied down because you can be with your friends," Johnson said. During Prom weekend, Johnson went to Six Flags with her friends.

All lead to an enchanted evening

The students believed the teachers did a nice job making the theme of an "Enchanted Evening" come to life. The Prom committee consisted of College and Career Counselor Mrs. Sarah Daniels, Family and Consumer Sciences teachers Mrs. Pat Smith and Ms. Sara Stallings and Science teacher Mrs. Melissa Valsi.

"Mrs. Valsi used to be in charge of Prom years ago, and Ms. Stallings has been on the committee for years, so between the both of them, it wasn't bad," Mrs. Daniels said. "What also helped us was how organized Ms. Stallings is. She had several binders with how everything should go, so looking at those made the process easier than I thought."

The students seemed to like the committee's work as well. Several students enjoyed the theme and thought the decorations for the Grand March were a nice touch.

"The theme seemed pretty magical," Junior Jasmine Wright said. "The decorations made it seem like a fairy tale."

Moving from the Grand March in the high school gymnasium to the Avalon, the students enjoyed the dance floor.

"The Avalon was really nice," Sophomore Carly Gubitz said. "I thought everything was planned out really well. Although I feel like the DJ could have been better, but I feel it was really nice overall."

After the Avalon, students kept their festive activities going in several different ways.

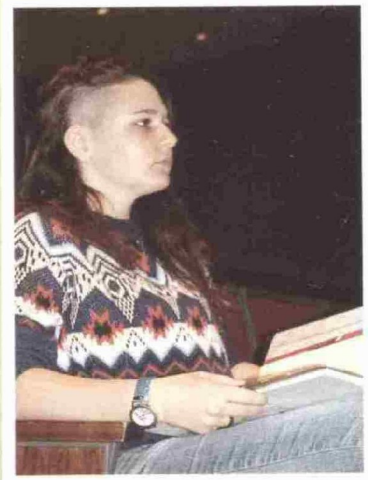
"I went downtown and went to Tempo Café," Prom Queen Junior Alexus Shirrells said. "I got my meal paid for by this man because he saw I was Prom Queen, and I thought that was really nice."

Students agree it was a night to remember no matter how it was spent.

"I spent my time with my friends all weekend," Prom King Junior Steffan Santiago said. "It was honestly the best time ever."

With Maldorf (Senior Jacob Reinhart) looking on, Will (Sophomore Ferdinand Aton) reaches for the hand of Princess Sara (Sophomore Mia Godfrey). During the scene, which occurs in the middle of the play, the two express their love for each other for the first time. By the end of the play, Sara realises that Will is her true love.

CAST

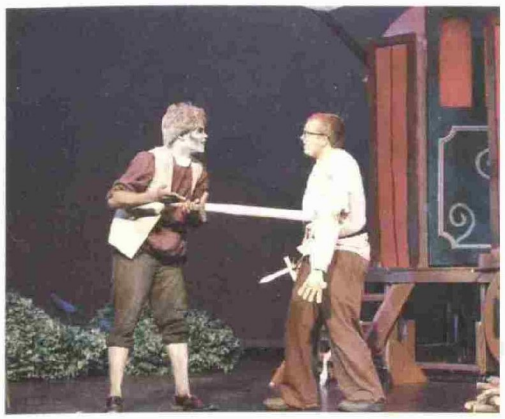


During dress rehearsal, Student Director Senior Anna Davis watches intently to determine changes that must be made before opening night. "I used this time to note if the cast portrayed their characters properly," Davis said.

Dancing along to "Best on a Quest," the Captain (Freshman Kelli Thomas), Wilkes (Sophomore John Grace) and Pea (Freshman Brook Stone) encourage Princess Sara and Will to confess their love for each other.

Because he enjoys the freedom of working backstage, Sophomore Keith Barnyard joined the stage crew. Power outages in October forced the crew to postpone work. "Because of the setbacks, the stage crew were painting set pieces the day of the play," Theatre Director Mr. Thomas Mackey said.

Troupe benefits from professional input



With the sword in hand, the dead prince (Junior Tyreak Thomas) accidentally stabs a bandit, Diggs (Sophomore Nicholas Cross) and his plan to be the hero backfires. "I felt like I portrayed my character well, but there is always room for improvement," Thomas said. Thomas has been involved in every fall play since his freshman year.

The presence of professional actors openly supporting the work of the students performing in front of the community has completely changed the way Thespian Troupe 1692 strives to succeed.

Students who worked on "The Dead Prince" were given the opportunity to meet the original cast and crew. Members of The Strange Tree Group, the theatre company who originally brought the show to life, told students they were enthused to watch the performance.

"It was nerve-wracking to have them watching me," Senior Hope Krajnak, who played the character Tasha, said. "It was also encouraging at the same time to do as best as I possibly could and try to portray the character."

The plot follows the journey of Will and Princess Sara through a magical forest to find her true love, the dead prince.

Troupe Director Mr. Thomas Mackey said he treats all actors equally when they audition for a part, giving each one an even chance for a role.

Not only did the cast benefit from the lively interactions of professionals, but the crew also gained something from the talk afterwards.

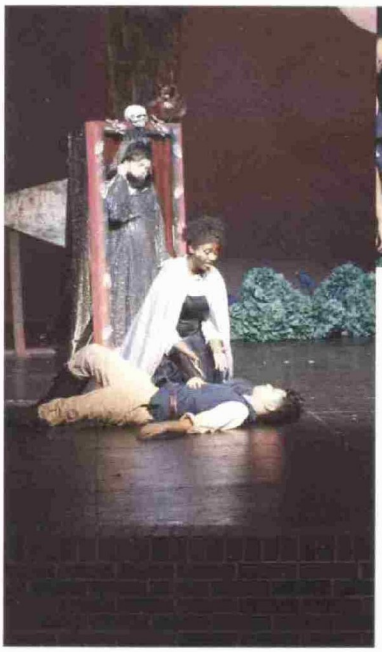
"Emily Schwartz, the playwright and director, has always been an inspiration of mine. Speaking with her about her creative process was an interaction I will never forget," Senior Anna Davis, student director, said.

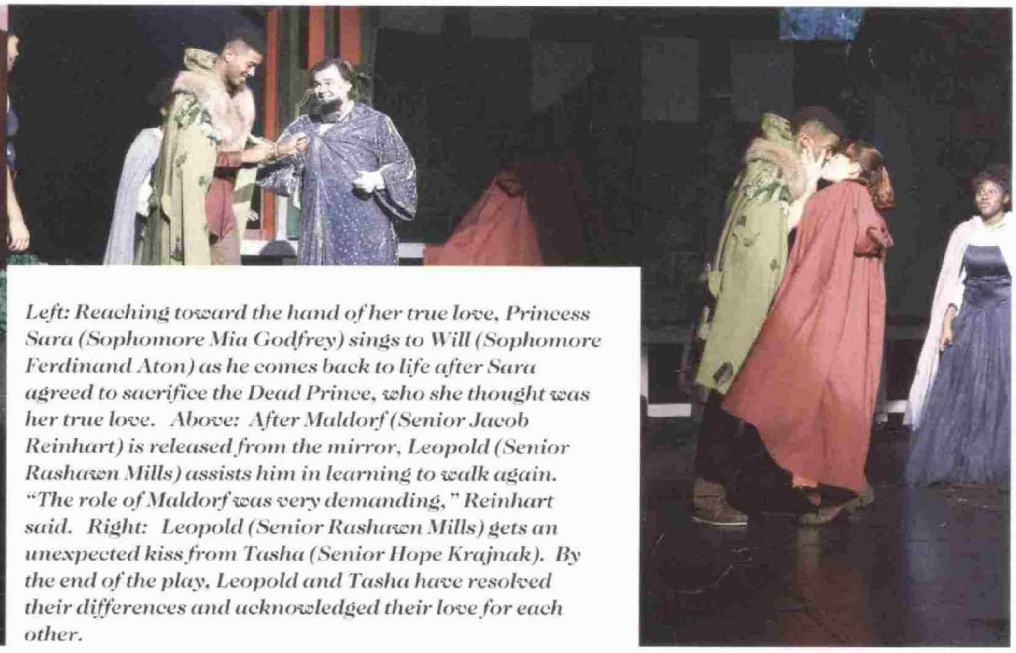
The experience allowed the Thespians to strengthen their abilities. Their confidence and dedication to character had increased due to the continuous support of "The Trees," Krajnak said.

"They started to understand they didn't have anything to be nervous about," Mr. Mackey said, "and that they should be very excited and do what they had been doing all along."

Mr. Mackey said there were advantages of his former theatre company sharing their experiences.

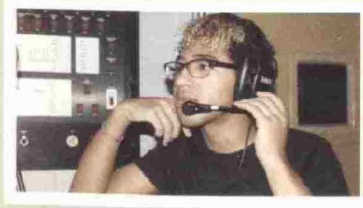
"They were absolutely in love with all the choices we made," Mr. Mackey said. "The nerves wore off a little bit once they realized the loudest laughter and the biggest applause was coming from The Strange Tree Group."





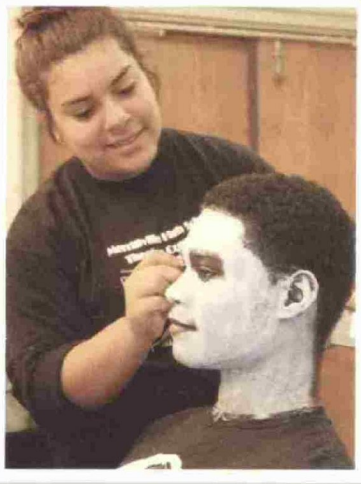
Left: Reaching toward the hand of her true love, Princess Sara (Sophomore Mia Godfrey) sings to Will (Sophomore Ferdinand Aton) as he comes back to life after Sara agreed to sacrifice the Dead Prince, who she thought was her true love. Above: After Maldorf (Senior Jacob Reinhart) is released from the mirror, Leopold (Senior Rashawn Mills) assists him in learning to walk again. "The role of Maldorf was very demanding," Reinhart said. Right: Leopold (Senior Rashawn Mills) gets an unexpected kiss from Tasha (Senior Hope Krajnak). By the end of the play, Leopold and Tasha have resolved their differences and acknowledged their love for each other.

Helping Sophomore Nicholas Cross, Costume Designer Junior Megan Mays attaches a fake arm. "The most challenging aspect was designing a detachable arm for the role of Diggs the Bandit," Mays said. In designing the costumes, Mays said she used colors normally associated with fairy tale royalty.



On the headset during rehearsal, Stage Crew member Sophomore Justin Hinton speaks to the sound booth. "Even though it becomes stressful at times, I enjoyed working backstage with the cast," Hinton said.

Before the show, makeup artist Junior Karla DeLeon applies makeup to Junior Tyreak Thomas, who plays a dead prince in the play. "In order to properly apply the makeup, we have to meet two weeks before show time," DeLeon said.



CREW

Musical puts new spin on old fairy tales

The cast, crew and directors of the spring musical "Into the Woods" came together to put the play on the Reinhart Auditorium stage. With a diverse cast, the musical proved to be different than past productions.

The show was split into two different acts with over 30 songs sung by different characters. The story revolves around familiar fairy tales but takes a new spin.

"'Into the Woods' contains familiar fairy tales such as 'Jack and the Beanstalk,' 'Cinderella,' 'The Baker and his Wife,' 'Rapunzel' and 'Little Red Riding Hood.' Not unlike other fairy tales, this one starts with a curse," Director Mrs. Melinda Reinhart said.

Instead of one or two lead roles, the play featured many.

"It's an ensemble show, so there really are no leads. All the different characters are of equal importance in telling the story, and we have a lot of talent," Mrs. Reinhart said.

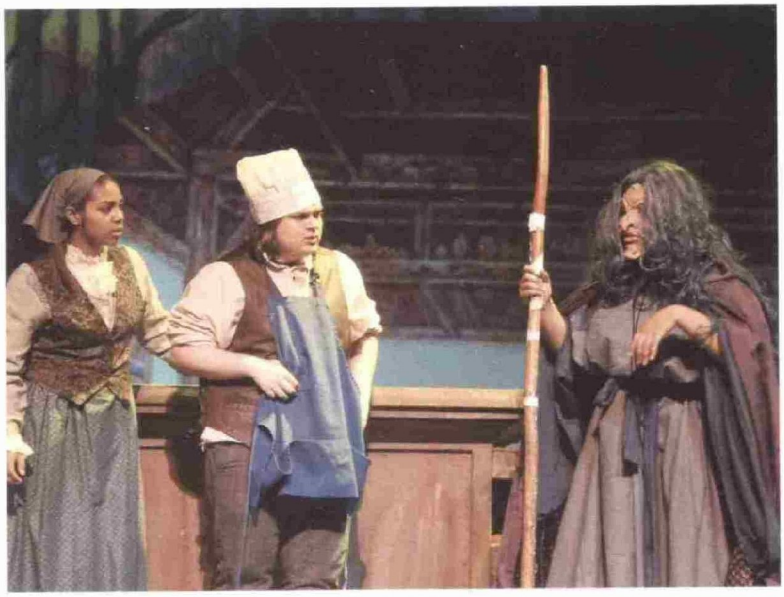
Actors auditioned for the various roles, but Mrs. Reinhart cast many in roles that suited them better.

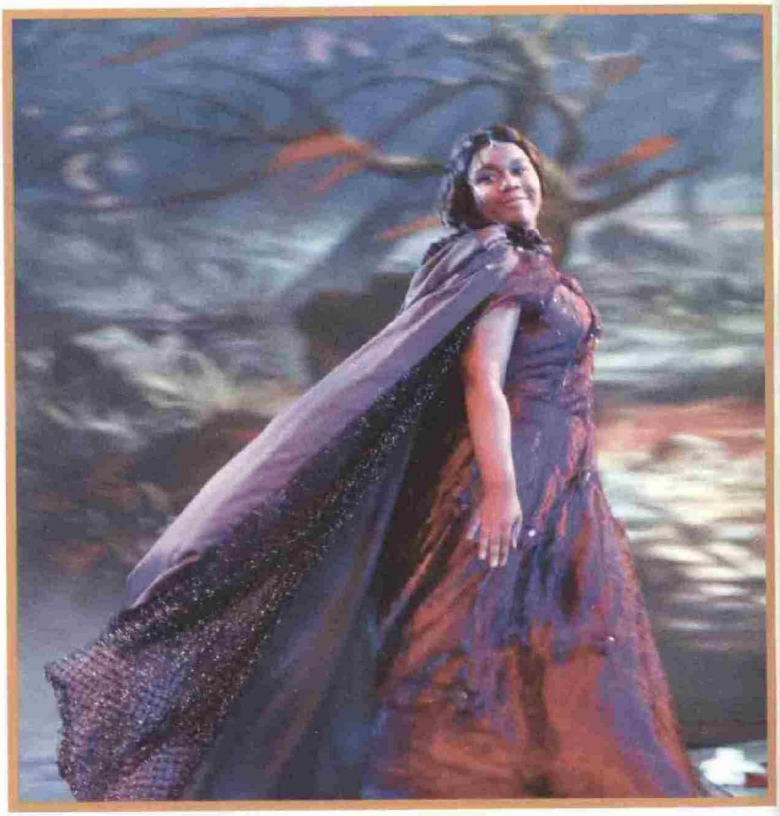
"I didn't audition for the baker, but I got cast as him," Senior Jacob Reinhart said. "I looked at any baker I could find, good or bad, and I tried to find something good out of it."

With a new, different set needed for the show, the tech crew was challenged to take sets from previous musicals and plays and transform them into woods and home scenery. The tech crew had to work together to figure out a creative way to put everything together on stage.

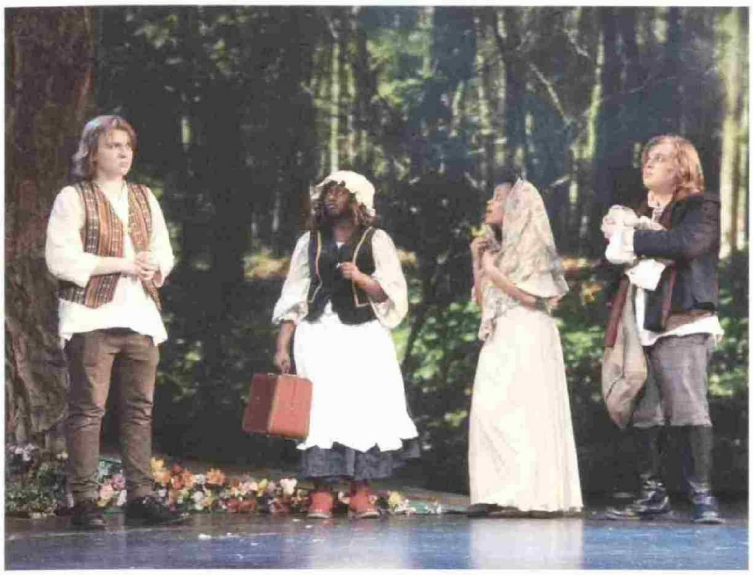
"Moving the set around was the hardest part," Junior Stage Director Nana Aserbe said. "We had to take things apart and put it back together."

In a duet with his brother, Rapunzel's Prince (Sophomore John Grace Jr.), Cinderella's Prince (Junior Tyreak Thomas) sings about how hard his life is compared to his brother's. "The reason why I act is because nobody really does it anymore, so it's really special to me to hold onto the tradition so it doesn't die," Thomas said. The cast practiced after school every day for eight weeks to prepare for opening night.



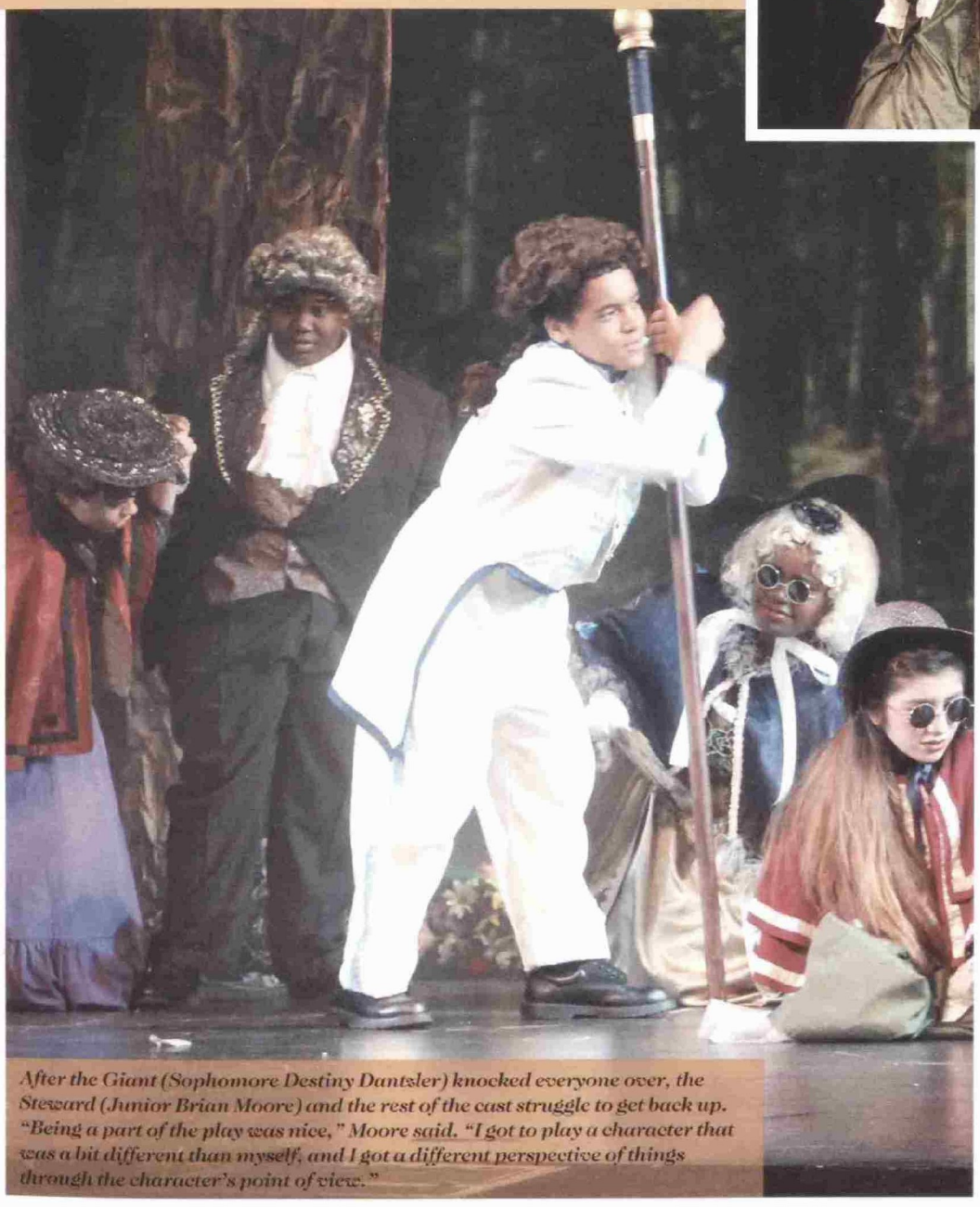


Above: After she transforms from an ugly witch into a beautiful woman, The Witch (Junior Scarlett Smith) makes her way off the stage. "I take a lot of rigorous classes, so I'm a creative person. Expressing the creative side of me keeps me sane," Smith said. She said she struggled with developing a harsh tone and a mean attitude. Left: Taking in the news they just heard, The Baker and his wife (Senior Jacob Reinhart and Junior Cherise Higgins) listen to The Witch (Junior Scarlett Smith) tell them about the curse she cast upon their home. "I like to make my character me," Reinhart said. "I take up the mindset and I am no longer in control of myself, but now the character." During the production of the play, the Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) contests were also happening, which forced these cast members to memorize both their play pieces and ISSMA solos.



In the forest, Jack (Freshman Lucas Reinhart), Little Red Riding Hood (Sophomore Mia Godfrey), Cinderella (Freshman Aniya Edwards) and The Baker (Senior Jacob Reinhart) discuss strategies for killing the Giant (Sophomore Destiny Dantzler). "I like embodying other people and their lives to see what it's like," Godfrey said. Godfrey said that since the actors at MHS are so advanced, everything went by much easier.

Listening to The Baker and his wife, Florinda (Sophomore Jasmine Jaramillo), Cinderella's Stepmother (Sophomore Nicole Hollowell) and Lucinda (Sophomore DaShanee Hunter) laugh at them for insulting their hair. "You have to think in a very hard way in order to portray your character just right," Jaramillo said. A lot of relationships were developed and many people got closer throughout the production.



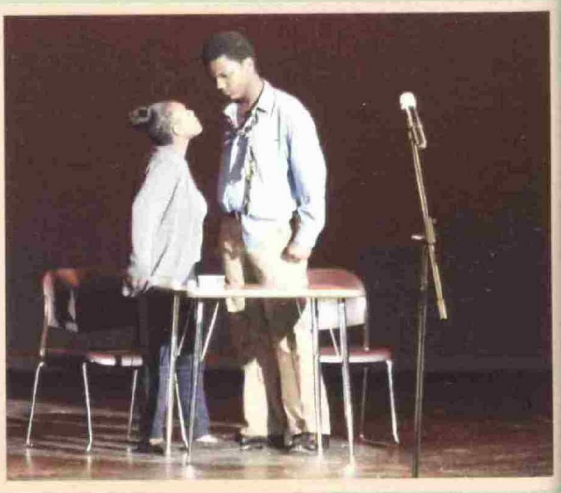
After the Giant (Sophomore Destiny Dantzler) knocked everyone over, the Steward (Junior Brian Moore) and the rest of the cast struggle to get back up. "Being a part of the play was nice," Moore said. "I got to play a character that was a bit different than myself, and I got a different perspective of things through the character's point of view."

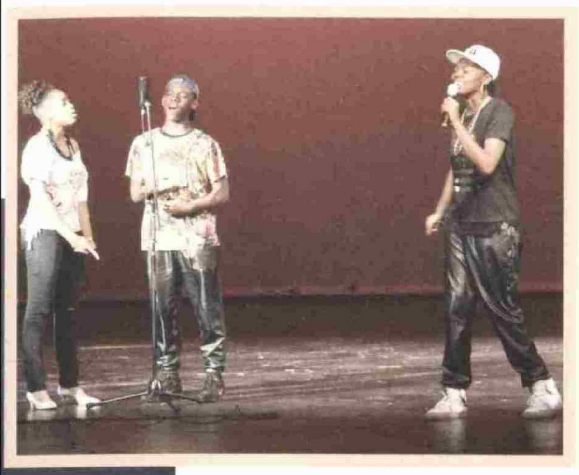
On the steps of her house, Cinderella (Freshman Aniya Edwards) decides if she should run away from or stay with her prince. "Playing this role was different because I had to find the free nature of being a princess," Edwards said. "I needed to be in that dire situation and feel confused." This was Edwards' first major role.

Revue showcases student talent

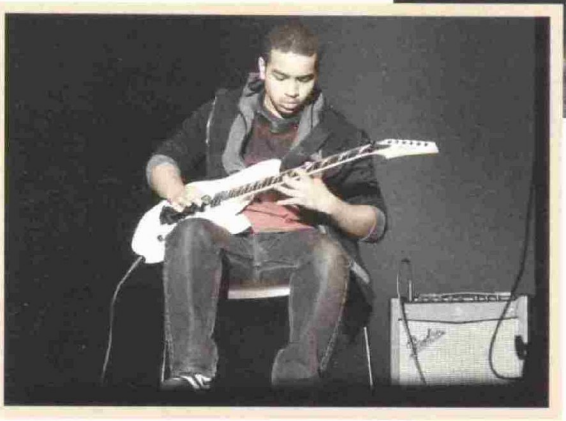
With the MHS Winter Guard, Seniors Courtney Chavez, Yvonne Luna and Brenna Bell, Juniors Nia Wells and Zarria Moss, Senior Melissa Brayfield and Freshman Eelecia Garron perform a throwback routine to the mash-up "My Boo" by Ghost Town DJ's and "Body Party" by Ciara. "My favorite part of performing is to see the audience reaction," Brayfield said. "I like when the audience gets into what we are doing."

Left: On the stage, Junior Cynthia Hindmon performs "Make It Rain" by Ed Sheeran. "The best part of being on stage is being able to let myself go and feel free," Hindmon said. She said she was inspired by last year's performers to audition this year. Right: Performing a skit, Senior Michael Shannon and Freshman Kelli Thompson look into each other's eyes. The skit was mainly about a black man standing up for his community. "I never did my own thing besides Jazz Band," Shannon said. "I wanted to perform so people could know who I am." He said the skit was easy because he had performed it in front of judges and he already knew everything.



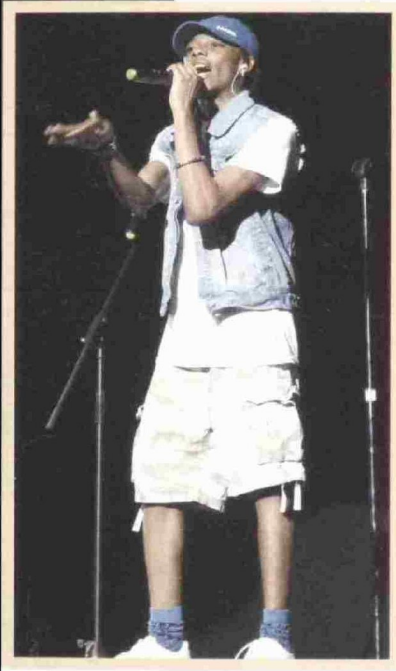


Performing a duet, Junior Tyreak Thomas and Sophomore Cardalina Hernandez sing "Like I'm Gonna Lose You" by Meghan Trainor and John Legend. "I auditioned because I did the Revue last year and I really enjoyed it," Hernandez said.



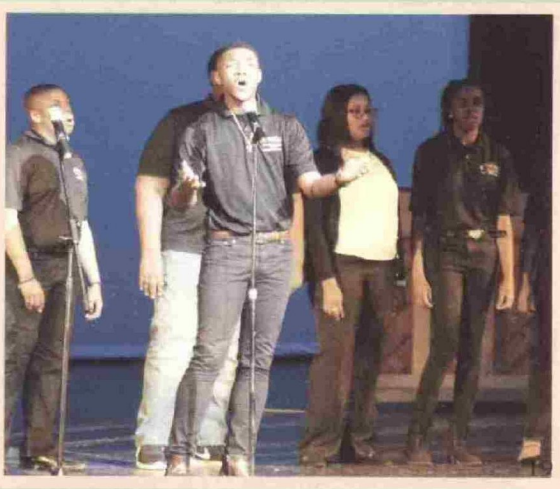
With her background singers Sophomore Te'Reyah Gaines and Freshman Jordan Munchenburg, Freshman Kaila Buggs sings her original song, "Dreamers." "I just really wanted people to hear my song and introduce the three of us as artists," Buggs said. Buggs said she recruited Gaines, and during their audition Munchenburg joined in to complete their trio.

With his guitar in hand, Junior Michael Hollowell Jr. plays "Roaring Tides" from the soundtrack of the anime show "Clannad." "I wanted to see if I could play in front of a crowd," Hollowell said. He said he took the original song and added his own guitar solo.



Left: With his hand pointed out to the crowd, Senior Justin Grady performs " Say My Name" by Destiny's Child featuring Judgment Day. "Judgment Day was about making a comeback, because I took a break from music but I came back stronger," Grady said. He said he was really looking forward to performing that night. Above: On the drums, Junior Kaja Sims performs "See you Again" by Wiz Khalifa featuring Charlie Puth with saxophonist Sophomores Keylian Brown and pianist Mik'el Mays. "It was something different and I liked the blend between the piano and the saxophone," Sims said. She said it was a fun experience and a way to show her peers what she can do. Right: Looking out, Junior Breonna Baggett sings "Lay Me Down" by Sam Smith. "I was really nervous, but I did it to work on performing," Baggett said. She said she practiced a lot before the show and asked people from choir to help her.

Left: While on stage, Senior Brandon Long recites a poem he wrote called "Imperfections." "It was a poem I wrote that reflected how people are imperfect," Long said. He said he was encouraged to perform because his friends said he had a talent and encouraged him to partake. Right: With members of Voices of Reason, Senior Rashawn Mills sings "Don't Take Your Joy Away" by Kirk Franklin and The Family. He said he was nervous because he performs a lot every year. "The song was a gospel song about how we can't let our troubles get us down," Mills said.



We succeeded

"*The different time signature changes were challenging to conduct at first. The conducting patterns were new to me because it was my first year as a drum major. I'm proud of the band because we were disciplined during band camp, so we got a lot of work done.*"

Drum Major
Sophomore Mik'el Mays

"It also teaches discipline, respect and increases your moral character. In eighth grade, I saw a drill routine performed in the auditorium. Discipline and uniform intrigued me."

Senior Sarita Gaona

"The experience was phenomenal. It made you feel like you were in the entertainment business. You got to see how show business works."

Senior Rashawn Mills

"It is kind of upsetting that we finished with silver, but I still feel like we had a successful year."
Sophomore Kristyn Rogers

"She seemed very proud of us. She loved that young women had an interest in the medical field."
Junior Erika Cooper

"That performance meant a lot. It touched us emotionally and spiritually. I am glad we did it."

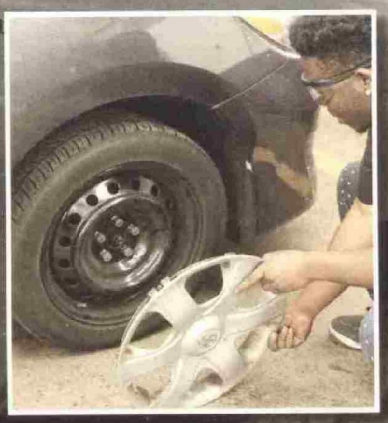
Senior David Hinton II

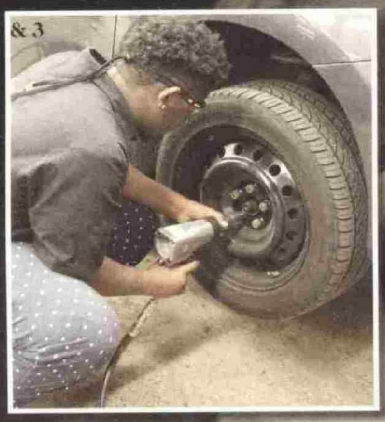
Methodist Hospital interns Senior Chelsea Primm, Junior Erika Cooper and Senior Ashton Anekwe

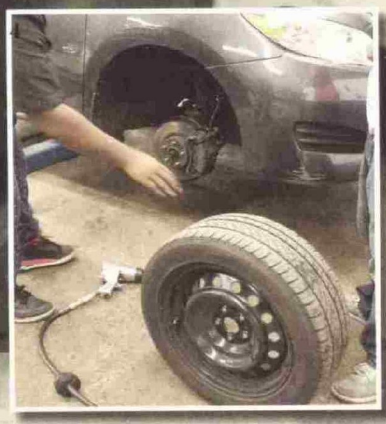
How to change a tire

Auto Mechanics Class

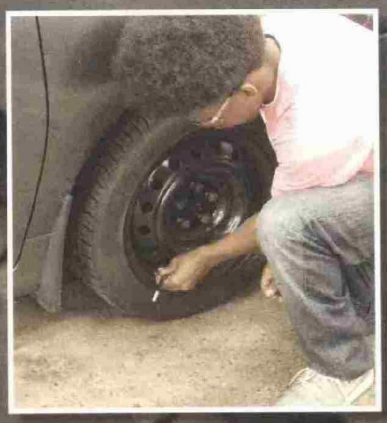
By Seniors Wendell Hopson and De'shaun Coleman

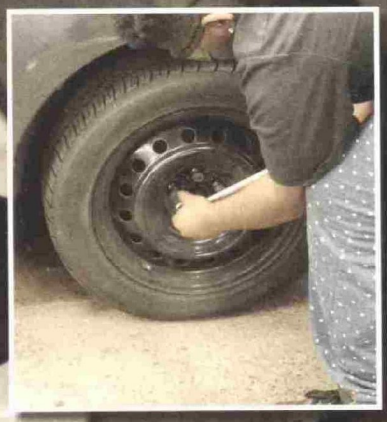


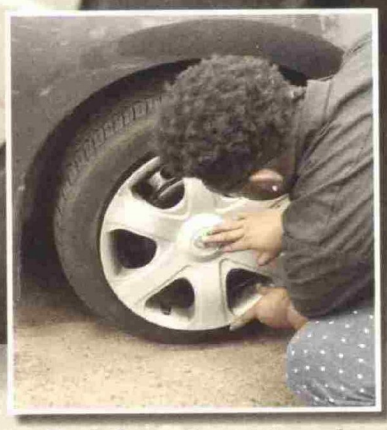




Step 1: Remove the hubcap.
Step 2: Raise the car using a jack.
Step 3: Unscrew the lug nuts.
Step 4: Remove the tire.

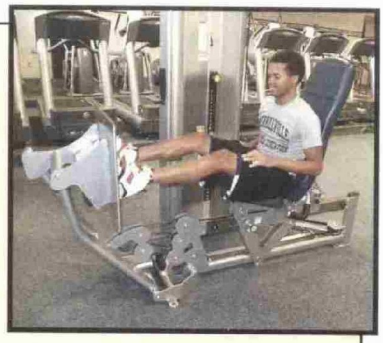




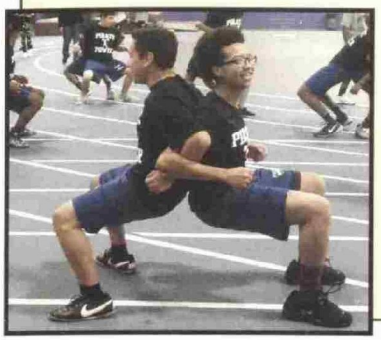


Step 5: Put on the new tire and check the air pressure.
Step 6: Screw the lug nuts back on in a star pattern, starting from the bottom, then going diagonally to the top, then straight down and back up diagonally, and finally straight down.
Step 7: Put the hubcap back on.

PE



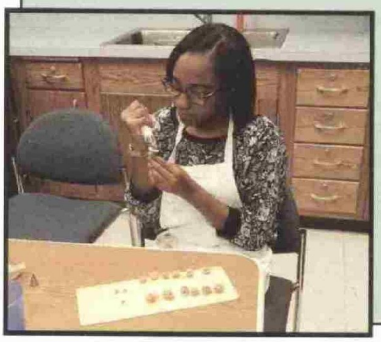
To work on his calf muscles, Freshman Yashar Johnson uses a leg press machine. "The machine is easy to use because I already work on my calves a lot," Johnson said. He plays football and baseball and said the running helps with his calves, too.



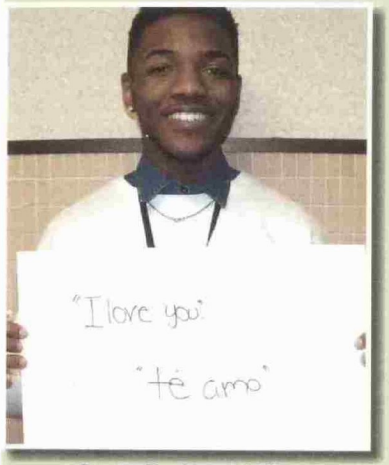
Doing partner squats with Junior Victor Gutierrez, Junior Jailand Morgan works out with the Army recruiters. "The men were more intense. We basically get to pick our own weight with Ms. Govert, but with them we had consequences," Morgan said. Morgan said the arm days were hard and the leg days were easier.

FACS

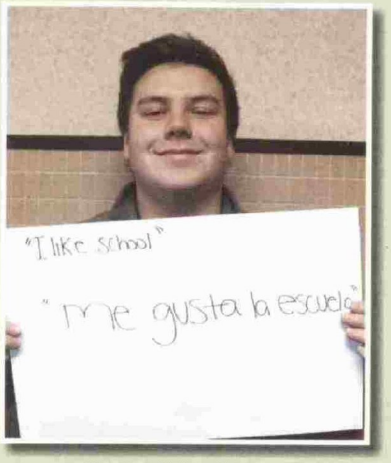
To decorate the tart, Senior Jamie Bhe applies a layer of frosting on the border. "There were three different processes involved in making the cake, which was pretty challenging," Bhe said. Bhe said the most enjoyable aspect was decorating.



Icing tube in hand, Senior Raemere Mitchell makes rosettes for her cake. "Part of my test grade was to bake and decorate a ten-inch wedding cake," Mitchell said. Mitchell said the most challenging part was the frosting.

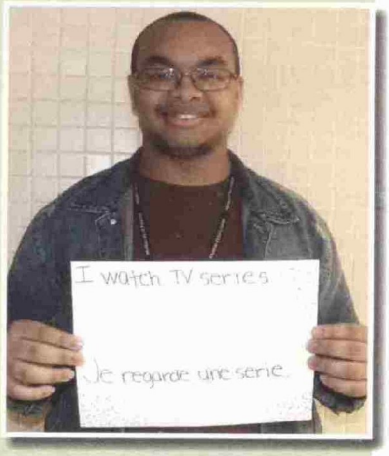


Senior Rashawn Mills



Senior Brian Baran

Junior Anya Johnson



Senior Darnell Taylor

Speaking a different language, using same words

Spanish and French Classes

The French who watched the Academy Awards ceremony in February 2016 didn't need a translator. They knew that Leonardo DiCaprio's best acting award came from a story about coming back.

The word "revenant" is one word of thousands the English have adapted from French. No translation needed for chocolat, crayon or chaise either. Estimates are that more than 30 percent of the English language comes from French.

"You see words you thought were English, but they are French," four-year French student Senior Jamie Bhe said. "You understand them better once you know how they are translated."

Bhe said she better understood the phrase "in lieu of," which translates to "place" in French, once she studied it in French class.

French textbooks tell students French is more like English than any other Romance language.

"With cooking, there any many terms that we have adapted," French teacher Mrs. Melissa Byerly said.

A thin pancake is a crêpe, the entré the main course, hors d'oeuvres an appetizer.

In Spanish, "it happens with even basic phrases," Spanish teacher Mrs. Hannah Coronado said.

Think "amigo" and "gracias" and "mi casa es su casa."

"If you never spoke a word of Spanish, when Spanish is spoken, you would understand something of what is said," Senior Timisha Ivie said.

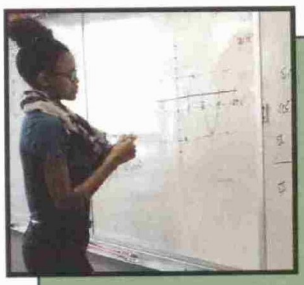
Born in Chicago, Ivie learned Spanish from her mother, who was born in the Dominican Republic, and English from her father, who is of Dominican decent, but born in the United States.

"I speak Spanish at home," Ivie said, "so I thought I knew a lot about the language, but I learned grammar and how placement works in school. It helps my Spanish writing skills and how I speak. Learning more Spanish has helped my English structurewise."

Bhe said the French have adapted many words from English into their language. iPhone is pronounced the same, as well as many brand names including Dior, Chanel and Lancôme.

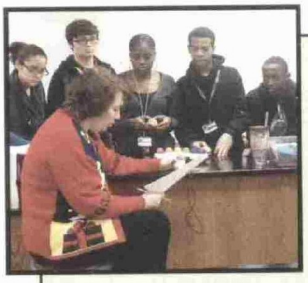
The French and Spanish learn the English language in the classrooms and in other ways that transcend borders.

"In France," Bhe said, "they listen to music that is sung in English." The same is true in the Dominican Republic.



Math

"Mrs. Draper is really good at what she does. She teaches calculus, and it's actually the only class I look forward to coming to throughout the day. Even though calculus is challenging for me to learn, Mrs. Draper gives the class great notes and is always ready to help us, no matter what. I enjoy this class because all the classmates work together to pass."
- Senior Brianna Raketic

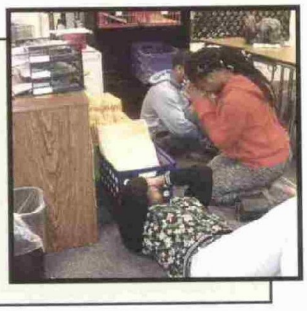


Science

"Chemistry is a fun class. The labs and experiments are very interactive and easy to learn. Mrs. Waters is the best teacher. She makes class fun, and she teaches chemistry so easily that the students can learn it fast."
- Sophomore Xavier Gibson

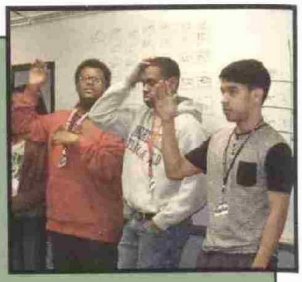
English

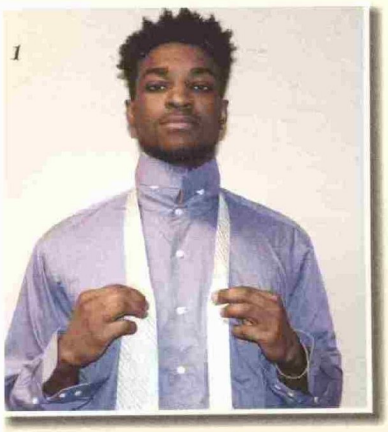
"Term paper was a lot of stress, but it wasn't hard to meet deadlines. It's rough when you didn't use the class time. It was rough for me because I was in basketball and I got home late."
- Senior Miracle Akins

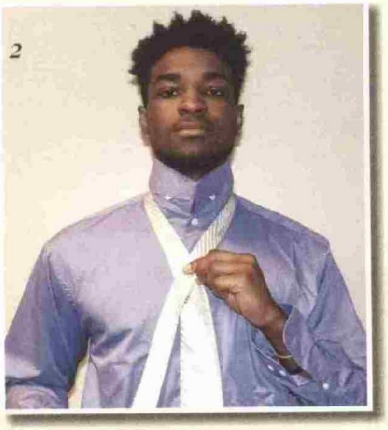


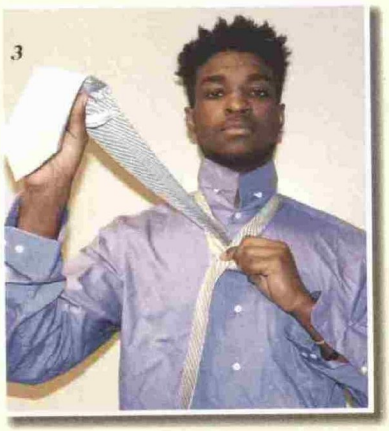
History

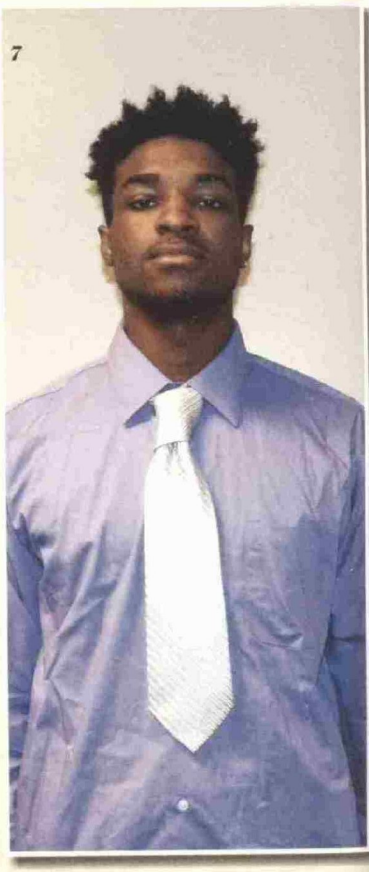
"I got disqualified while playing Schoonopardy. I raised my hand too early because I thought he was done with the question, but he wasn't. I would have gotten it right if I didn't raise my hand early because I knew all the candidates running for office."
- Sophomore Carlos Avalos

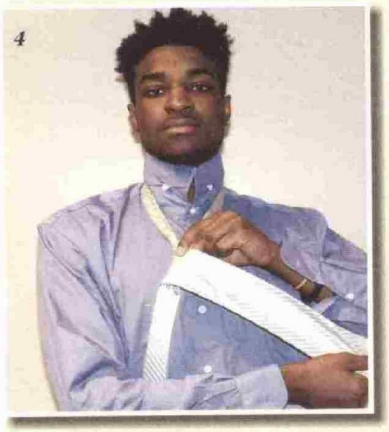


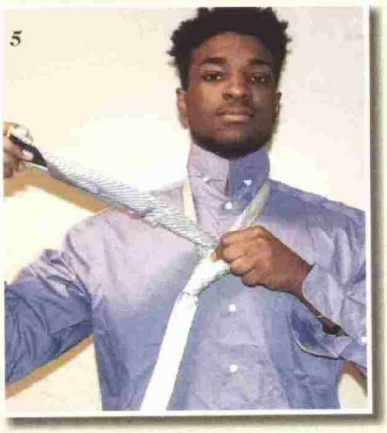


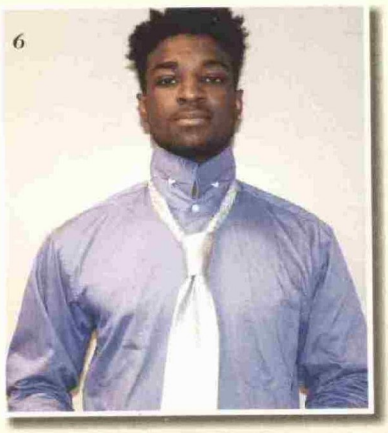












How to tie a tie

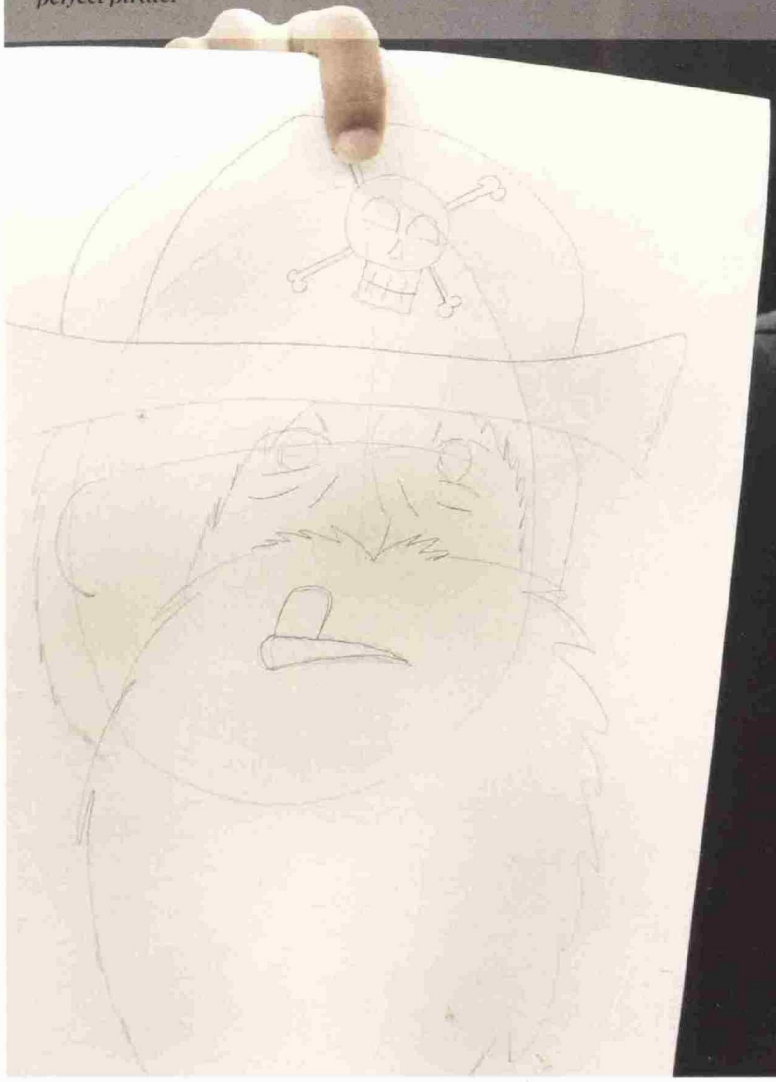
Senior Anthony Tucker

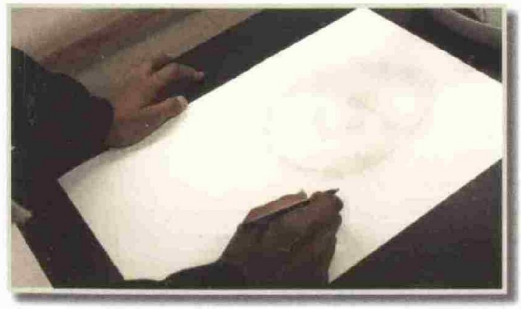
Step 1: Straighten out the tie and make sure the wide end is longer than the narrow end.
Step 2: Pull the wide end of the tie over the narrow end of the tie.
Step 3: Pull the wide end of the tie through the neck loop from underneath.
Step 4: While pinching the knot with your left hand, pull the wide end of the tie to the left with your right hand.
Step 5: Pull the wide end of the tie through the back of the neck loop with your right hand.
Step 6: Straighten and adjust the tie.
Step 7: Tighten the knot and draw it up to the collar.

How to draw a pirate

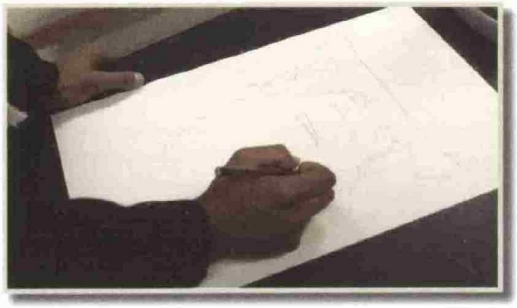
Senior Christian Savage

What better way to show Pirate Pride than by drawing a pirate. Senior Christian Savage provides a step-by-step process to show how to draw the perfect pirate.





Start by drawing a big circle in the middle of the paper for the head. Add two smaller circles inside of the big circle for the eyes. Draw a vertical, curved line for the nose.

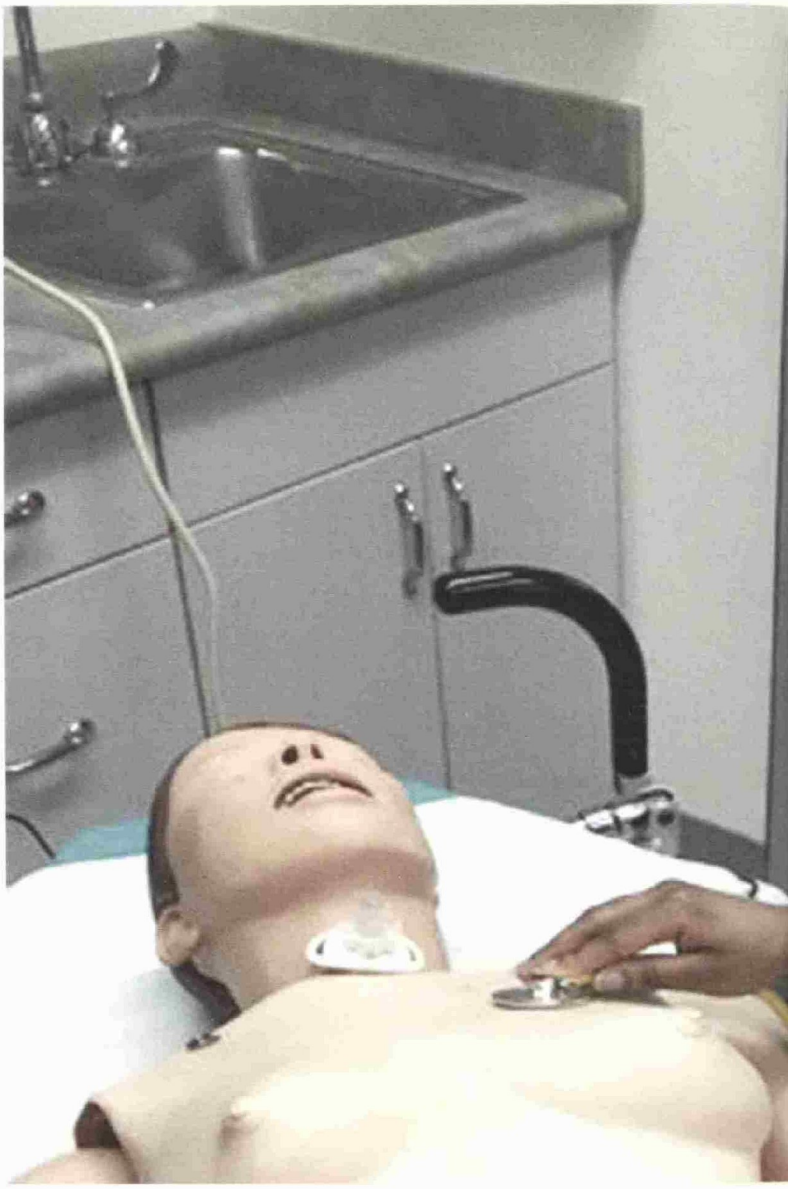


Next, draw downward scribbles to make the beard. Draw two connecting lines across the top of the circle for the outline of the hat. Add a straight line toward the bottom of the circle for the start of the mouth. Create a curved triangle shape for the mouth and close off the facial area by adding more scribbles for the beard.

Make a curved arch over the base of the two connecting lines drawn to create the top of the hat. Add a half circle inside the hat to create dimension. Next, add a rounded rectangle on top of the mouth for the tooth and draw lines over the eyes for a dramatic look. For the skull and crossbones, make a circle with a rectangle under it inside the hat. For the crossbones, make two sets of diagonal lines. Draw three lines going up and a line across for the teeth in the rectangle. Finish the skull by drawing two half circles. Add a few finishing touches and voila. A pirate.

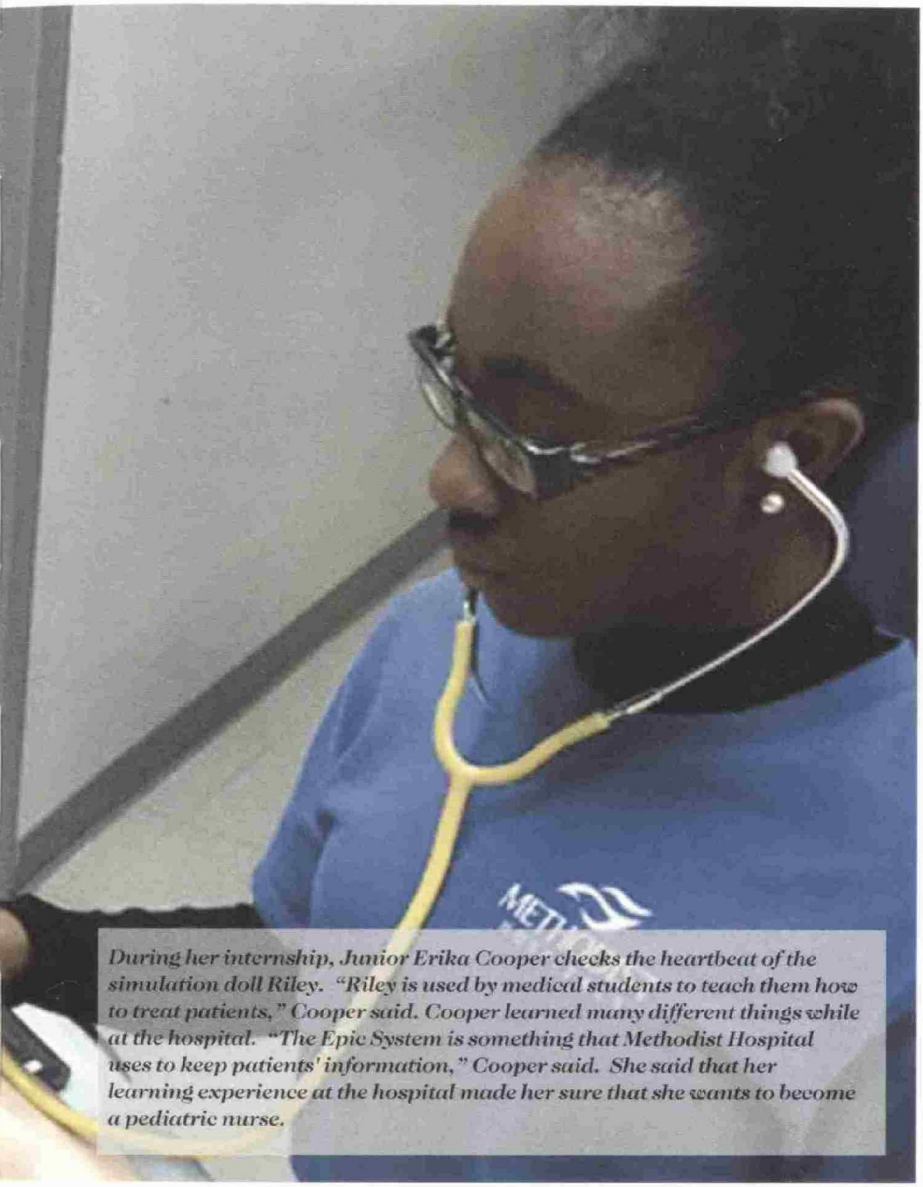
On-the-job

Senior Chelsey Primm works along with a labor and delivery nurse. "I want to be an obstetrician/gynecologist," Primm said. During her internship, Primm was in the delivery room as a woman gave birth. "It was very exciting," Primm said. "Educationally, I got a lot of experience from it because not many witness it in a learning environment." Primm said that during her internship, she shadowed hospital personnel on checkups and procedures. She also met the Supreme Court in Indianapolis and the CEO and vice president of the hospital.

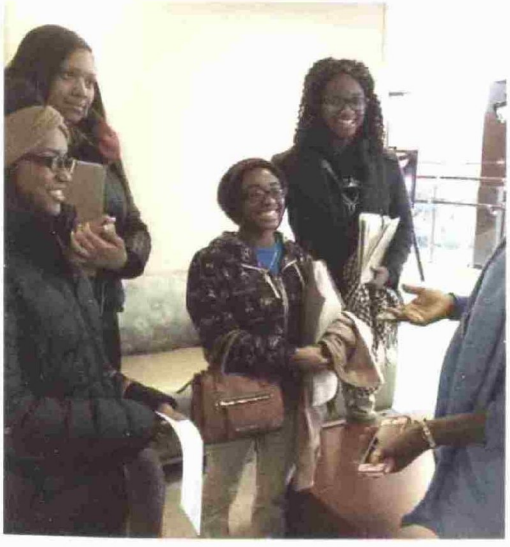


At the beginning of their ten-week internship, Seniors Ashton Anekwe, Deanetra Dixon, Chelsey Primm and Junior Erika Cooper tour Methodist Hospital Northlake with Dr. Liaison Rafael Nunez. "Great eye-opening experience," Anekwe said. "I got to see surgeries and make sure patients get the best outcome." She said that the internship was a valuable learning experience she would not get in a classroom. "I wanted to make sure that this is what I want to do in my life," Anekwe said. Anekwe noted that the interns were treated like adults during the internship.

know-how

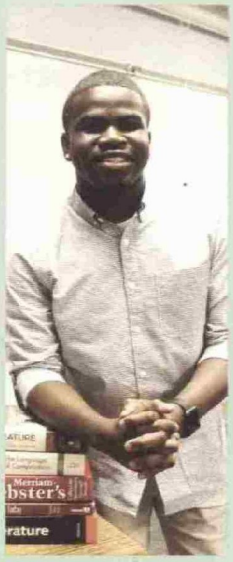


During her internship, Junior Erika Cooper checks the heartbeat of the simulation doll Riley. "Riley is used by medical students to teach them how to treat patients," Cooper said. Cooper learned many different things while at the hospital. "The Epic System is something that Methodist Hospital uses to keep patients' information," Cooper said. She said that her learning experience at the hospital made her sure that she wants to become a pediatric nurse.



Interns Seniors Deanetra Dixon and Chelsea Primm, Junior Erika Cooper and Senior Ashton Anekwe listen as Lola Bayode explains the duties of Ultrasound Technicians at Methodist Hospital. "She seemed very proud of us," Cooper said. "She loved that young women had an interest in the medical field." Cooper said she loved the experience because she got to see what being a nurse would actually be like.

After Darius Adams completes his internship at Clifford Pierce Middle School with seventh grade English teacher Mrs. Erica Leslie, he plans to attend IUPUI to earn an undergraduate degree in education. Adams received a direct admission scholarship worth $6,000 and the Lux Scholarship worth $500. "The biggest challenge educators face," Adams said, "is keeping kids focused and engaged in their learning because there are so many distractions." He said he plans to meet the challenge by establishing relationships with his students and sharing his own experiences. During his internship, Adams worked with students one-on-one or in small groups.



Participating in the Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting ceremony, Senior Sara Ramires (fourth from left) celebrates the opening of a new Planet Fitness in Crown Point. During her second trimester, Ramires partook in a ten-week internship at Crossroads Regional Chamber of Commerce. "It was great. I was able to witness what it's like to be in a professional business setting while learning the importance of local business growth and networking," Ramires said. Ramires plans to attend Indiana University Bloomington, where she seeks to be admitted into the Kelley School of Business. "I want to major in business but I am not sure what area I want to study in," Ramires said. "Business is such a big major and there is so much you can do, but I know I want to do something with management. I want to be a CEO one day."

"The benefits students get out of doing an internship are a taste of real life. Students understand the expectations of a successful career. In this round of internships, four students interned at Methodist Hospital, one at the Crossroads Regional Chamber of Commerce and another at Clifford Pierce Middle School."
Mrs. Sharon Row
Internship Coordinator

Spring trip, ISSMA gold highlight year for orchestra

The seniors in orchestra had been looking forward to this year since they entered high school. This was the year of their Spring Break trip to Orlando's Universal Studios.

"We knew at the beginning of the year we were going," Senior David Hinton II said. "It's something we look forward to, big time."

After a long bus ride and a couple of days in the Florida sunshine, the advanced orchestra performed at Give Kids The World, a non-profit resort for children with terminal illnesses.

"That performance meant a lot," Hinton said. "It touched us emotionally and spiritually. I am glad we did it."

Best of all was the audience reaction to their upbeat set of retro songs that included "Pipeline" and "Shake It Off."

"The kids were all excited," Hinton said. "You don't have reactions like that in regular concerts. They found a moment to be happy."

Orchestra members were joined by band members when they performed at an outdoor venue in Universal Studios a day later for a half-hour concert.

With the arrival of a new orchestra teacher midway through the school year, the students adjusted to Mr. Darrell Murray's teaching style.

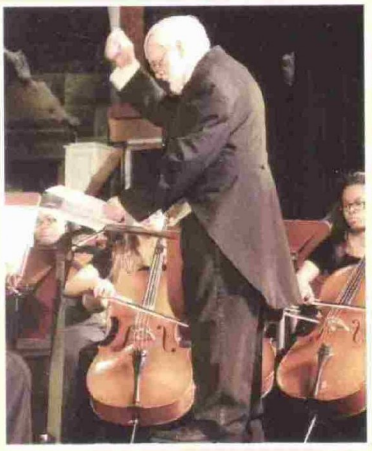
"Mr. Murray has a very wild style from fiddle tunes to rock, whereas Mr. Lang was classical, so it was hard to adjust to," Junior Megan Mays said.

But they did adjust. At the Indiana State School Music Association competition, six soloists and three ensembles earned gold medals at both the regional and state competitions.

"At the regionals, where everyone competes, everyone received gold," Hinton said. "Then we went to state and all got gold again. That was pretty good."

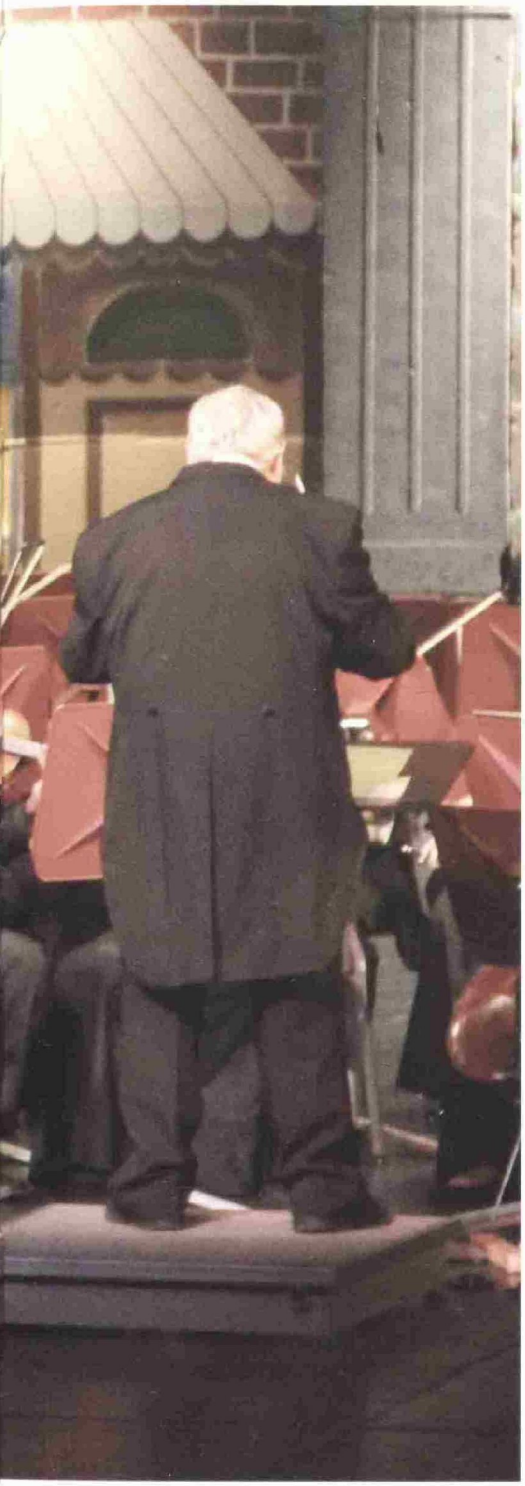
"We had been having trouble splitting time for practice for ISSMA," Junior Steffan Santiago said, "and our trip to Universal Studios; however, we were gradually on our way."

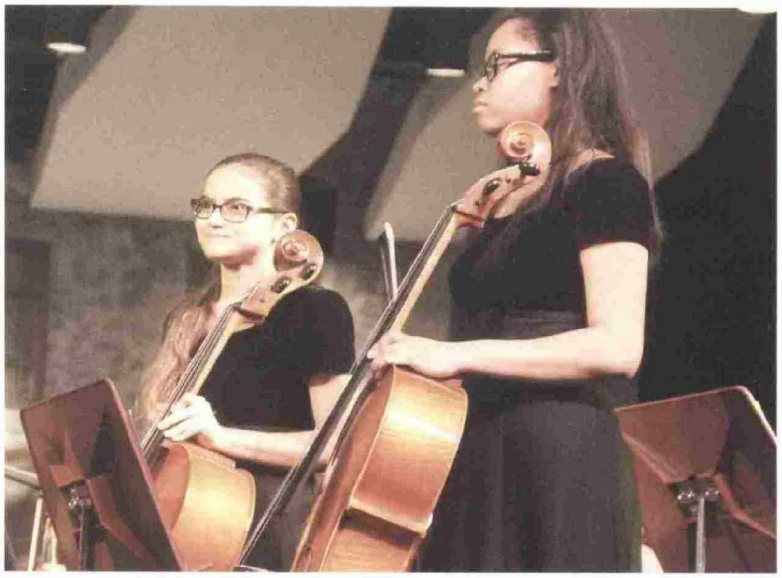
In orchestra for almost ten years, Senior David Hinton II plays his violin in first chair, alongside Juniors Kathleen Aton and Maxwell Moore. "I lead the entire orchestra during concerts by making sure that all the instruments are tuned correctly, and I also give interpretations for music," Hinton said. This concert was different for the players because Orchestra Director Mr. Darrell Murray chose all of the songs for them.



In his first year teaching at MHS, Mr. Darrell Murray conducts the orchestra during the holiday concert. "I get immense pleasure when I am able to guide students toward a good performance," Mr. Murray said. "By sharing my love of music, I can help them find the pleasure of great results from their work." Mr. Murray plays the violin, viola and fiddle.

Playing the cello, Junior Steffan Santiago sits in first chair. "My role in the concert is being the section leader or the teacher of my section, so I make sure that everyone in my section is doing their job," Santiago said.





With the Intermediate Orchestra, Sophomore Damari Ramos and Junior Briyauna McNeal wait for the director's instruction. "This concert was special because we played together more and everything just flowed better compared to our first concert," Ramos said. During the holiday concert, the orchestra played some of their songs with the band to make a full orchestra.

Bow in hand and violin in playing position, Senior Ahveyon Williams performs in the holiday concert. "There were many songs, but the most difficult song to me was 'Española' by Fantasia," Williams said. They received their holiday music two weeks after the fall concert, giving them a lot of time to learn the songs.

While performing at the concert, Junior Alisha Mongold concentrates on hitting every note. "I always become so relaxed and focused while performing. Growing up, this has become my favorite hobby," Mongold said.

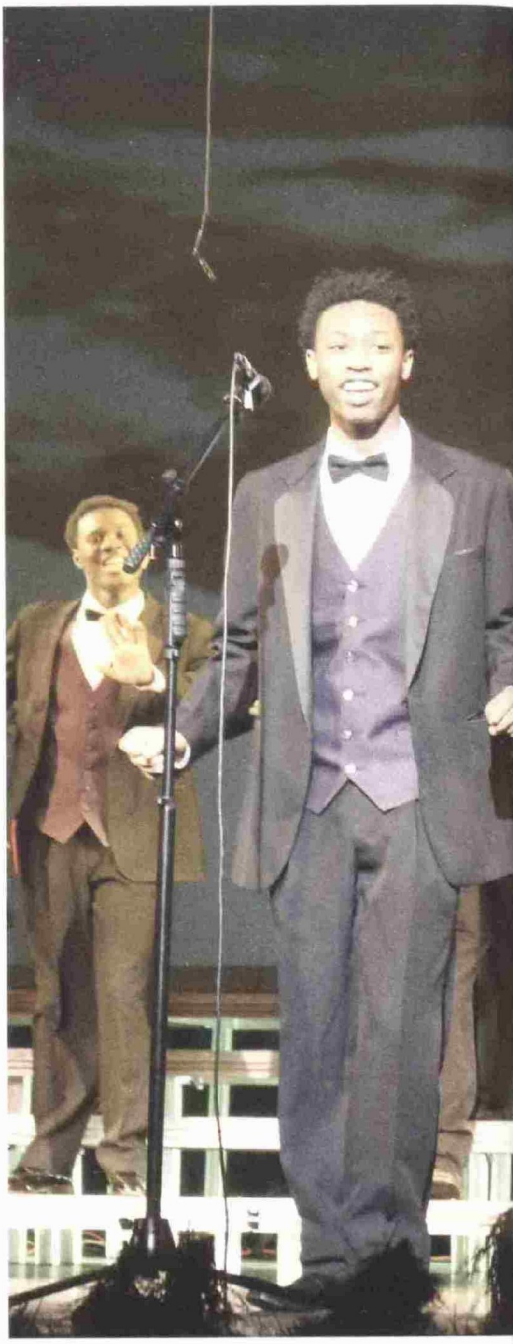
Jaws resting on the chinrests of their violins, Intermediate Orchestra players Sophomore Tatiana Peters and Junior David Rosa play their violins. "Our new orchestra director, Mr. Murray, is a fiddle player, so he incorporated fiddle songs into the concert," Peters said. They had dress rehearsals after school, but they practiced their music during school hours.

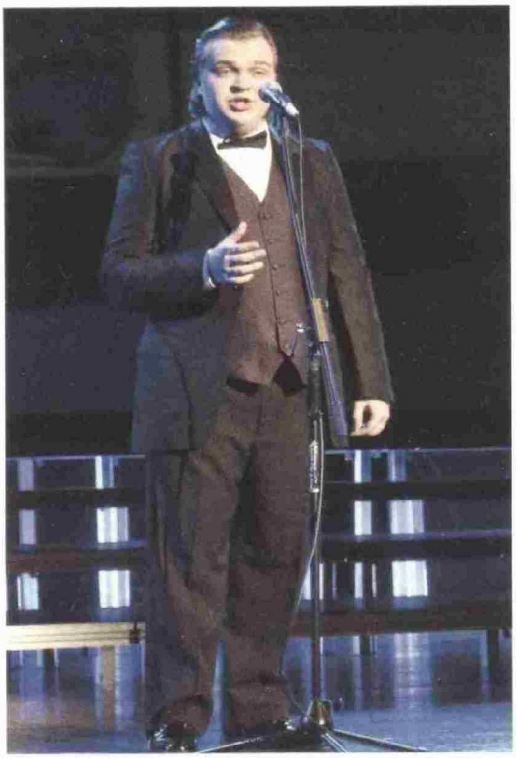
Indiana State School Music Association Competition

Event	*Rating*
Regional Solo & Ensemble	*Six Gold Solos Three Gold Ensembles*
State Solo & Ensemble	*Six Gold Solos Three Gold Ensembles*

To help the audience get into the holiday spirit, Junior Scarlett Smith sings an excerpt from "The Christmas Waltz." Students in the choir entertain at holiday parties in the community throughout the season, and they prepare holiday music beginning in November. Smith earned gold with her ensemble at the Indiana State School Music Association contest.

During a medley of holiday songs, Sophomore Mia Godfrey helps set the mood for the concert. In this year's Indiana State School Music Association competition, Godfrey earned a gold rating for her solo.





On stage, Senior Jacob Reinhart sings his solo "White Christmas." He said he believes the winter concert went well. "It felt weird because the style of the song is different than what I'm used to, and it was also my first winter concert solo," Reinhart said. Reinhart earned a gold for his Indiana State School Music Association solo.

Indiana State School Music Association Competition

Event	Rating
District Solo & Ensemble	22 Gold Solos 4 Silver Solos 7 Gold Ensembles
State Solo & Ensemble	19 Gold Solos 7 Gold Ensembles

Looking into the crowd, Sophomore John Grace Jr. stands front and center to sing with the choir. "Being around everyone as we learn to improve our singing is the best part of choir," Grace said. In his third year of choir, Grace still has the goal to better his singing. Grace earned gold on his solo in the Indiana State School Music Association competition in January.

Choir entertains at MHS, throughout the community

Choir students have had a busy year, singing and entertaining at concerts at MHS and venues throughout the community and vying for top honors at the Indiana State School Music Association's annual competition.

At the request of the Star Plaza Theatre, Choir Director Mrs. Melinda Reinhart and the choir sang with country singer Kenny Rogers during his annual holiday show in Merrillville. Choir students sang four selections with the country music star and were featured in one a capella selection, "Have You Seen The Baby."

Senior Rashawn Mills said Rogers was complimentary of the singers from MHS.

"The experience was phenomenal. It made you feel like you were in the entertainment business," Mills said. "You got to see how show business works."

Mills joined the choir during his sophomore year and moved quickly into the Vocalteens, the top choral group. Altogether, 125 students participate in choir, with 35 to 40 students joining the program during their freshman year.

"When students continue with the program, their skills continue to grow without interruption. They learn music faster," Mrs. Reinhart said. "I can get them working on new music sooner because I know their voices and can choose music to showcase their strengths, yet challenge them for continued growth and maturity."

"It all helps to build our program and sustain our reputation of a quality vocal music program," Mrs. Reinhart said.

At the ISSMA District Solo and Ensemble Contest on January 31 at Munster High School, choir members earned 94 gold and 12 silver medals.

"It was really nerve-racking because the people before me were really good," Junior Ronald Brewer said.

Junior Tyreak Thomas said that singing and performing is a passion for the young singers. Many plan to carry their passion into future careers.

"It's what I love to do, and it keeps me happy. I've been singing since birth," Thomas said.

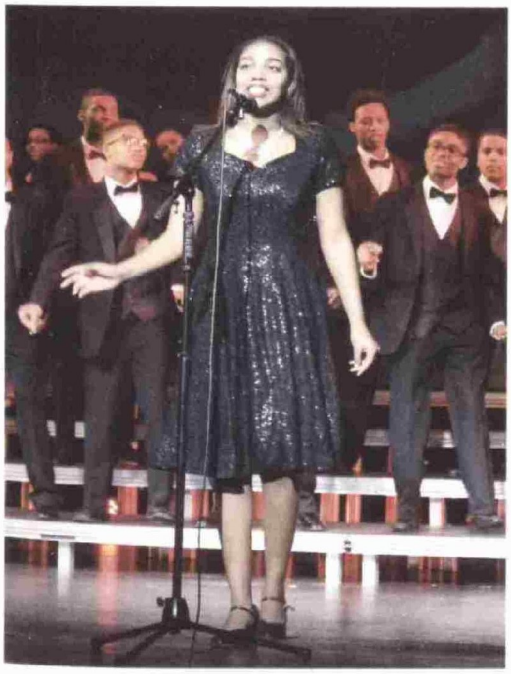
Mrs. Reinhart, who has been working at the high school for 16 years, echoes the sentiment.

"My favorite part of working here at the high school is getting to work every day with some very talented performers," Mrs. Reinhart said.

The choir's "black dresses" have been dancing all over Northwest Indiana for the past nine years, and Mrs. Reinhart said it's time for new ones.

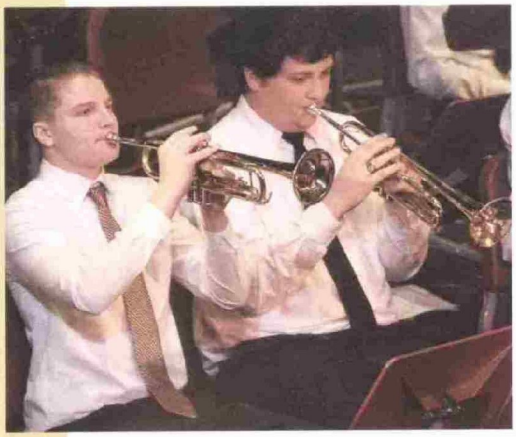
"From money earned from the holiday season caroling donations, we have about $2,000," Mrs. Reinhart said. "Fundraising will make up the rest."

Center stage, Junior Ronald Brewer sings a tune. "I always loved choir. It's the one thing that connects people," Brewer said. Brewer earned a gold rating for his solo at the Indiana State School Music Association Solo and Ensemble competition.



Given the role of Mrs. Claus, Junior Cherise Higgins narrates "The North Pole Live." "The winter concert is the most fun, and it's easier to learn the music because everyone already knows Christmas songs," Higgins said. She said the advanced class started preparing music in October, and the choir took three weeks to compose the entire show. Higgins earned a gold rating for her solo at the Indiana State School Music Association contest.

During the choir's performance with Kenny Rogers, Mrs. Melinda Reinhart tells the crowd about the songs. "Getting chosen to sing with Kenny Rogers and getting a standing ovation is my best memory this year," Mrs. Reinhart said. Mrs. Reinhart said she sees herself still teaching music five years from now because one of her teachers inspired her.



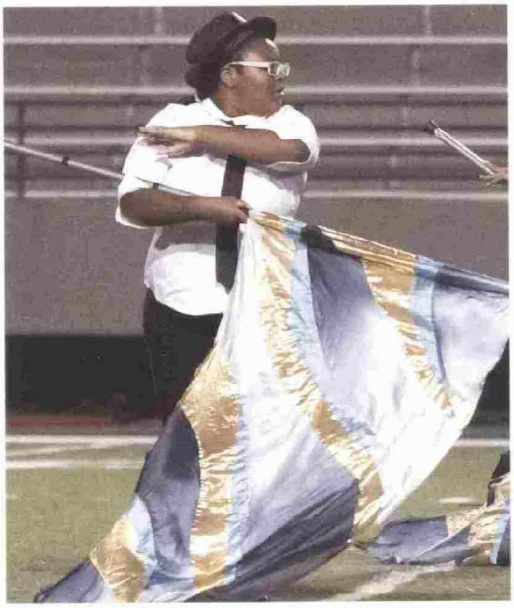
A third-year band member, Freshman Jared Howard plays the trumpet alongside his stand partner, Senior Sean Noonan. "The thing that challenges me the most is learning the new music," Howard said. He said he also enjoys being able to hang out with his friends.

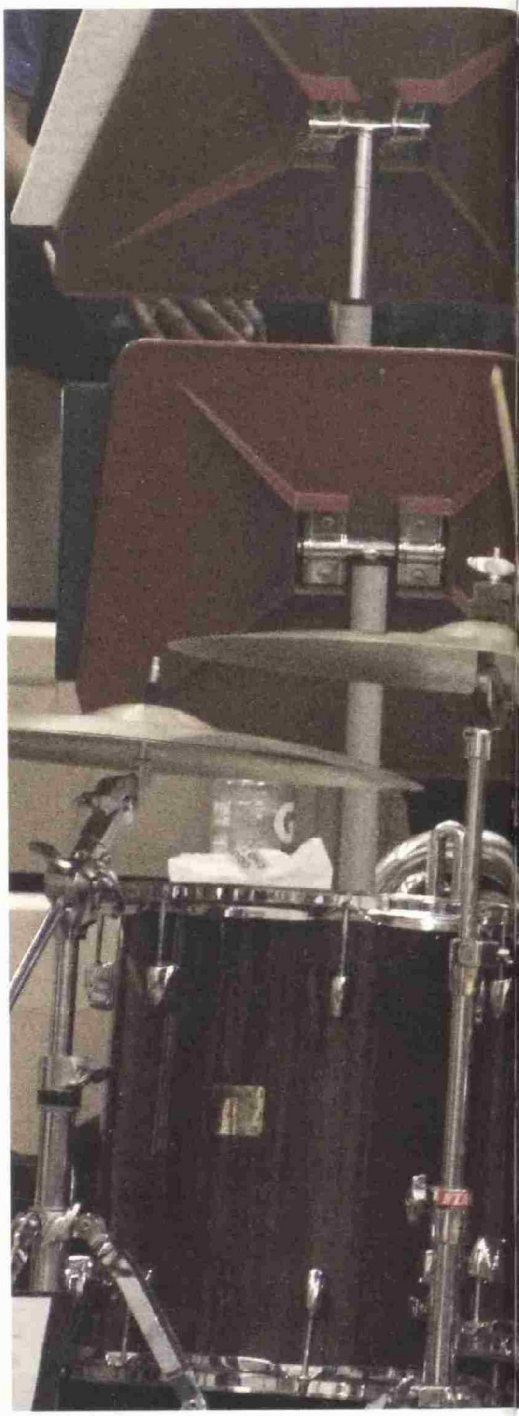
Using the trombone's slide mechanism to change the pitch, Junior Isaac Graham and Senior Brenna Bell play jazz music during the holiday concert. "Preparing for my solo was very stressful because I had to balance it with school and band practice," Bell said. The most enjoyable part, she said, was that everyone supports each other like one big family.

Festivals & Competitions

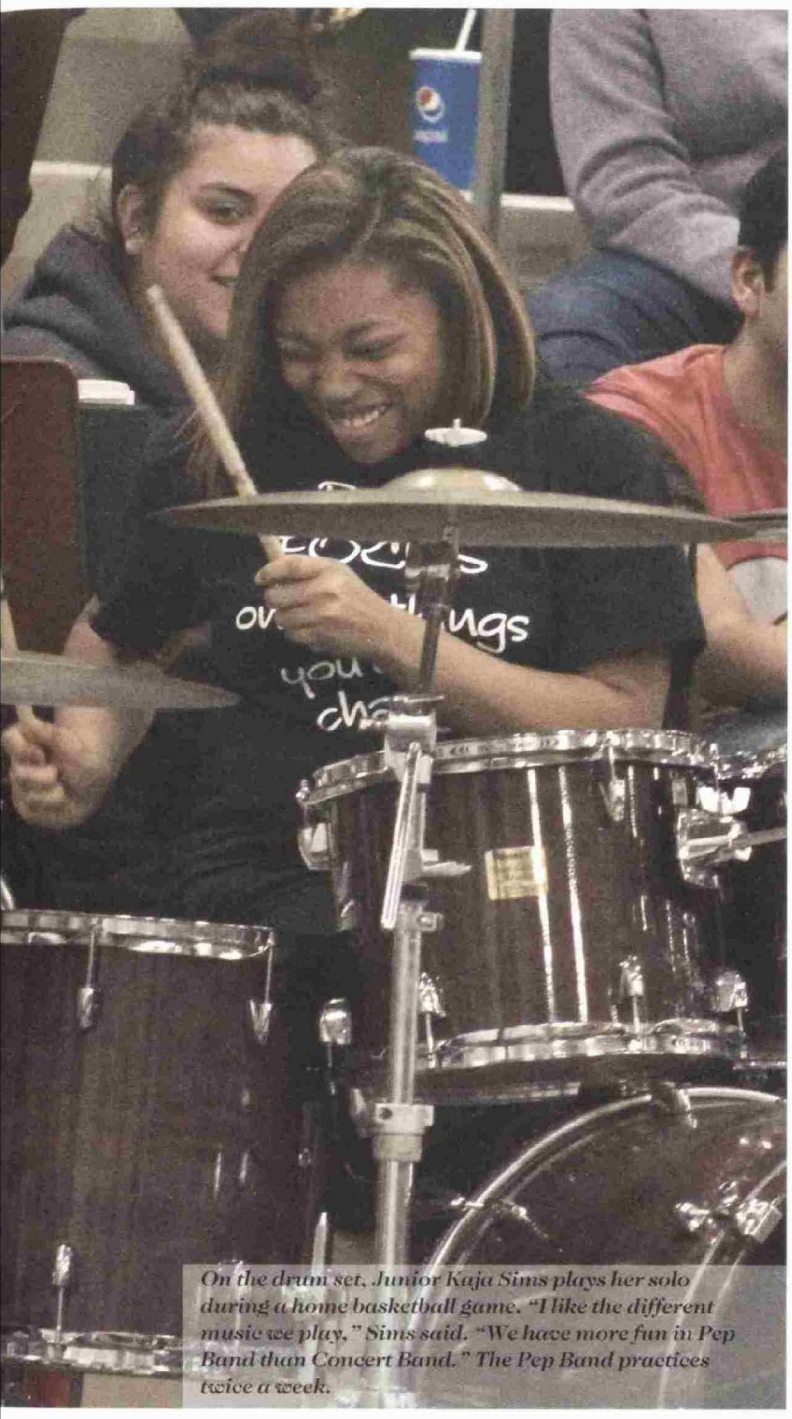
Event	*Rating*
Marching Band	
Kankakee Valley Invite	Gold
Hobart High School Invite	Gold
Indiana State School Music Association Festival	Silver
Concert Band	
ISSMA Regional Solo & Ensemble	One Gold
ISSMA State Solo & Ensemble	One Gold
Organizational Contest	Silver
Jazz Band	
ISSMA Jazz Festival	Silver
Wind Ensemble	
ISSMA Organizational	Silver with a Gold in Sight-Reading

On the football field, Color Guard member Freshman Naomi Fields twirls the flag. "The hardest part was learning new things like tosses," Fields said. Using synchronized movements, the Color Guard adds a visual aspect to the Marching Band music.





Above: With eyes focused on the sheet music during the band's holiday concert in December, Senior Yvonne Luna begins to play. "I actually use to play the flute and piccolo before choosing the oboe," Luna said. She said she decided to take up the oboe in order to challenge herself more with difficult pieces. Right: With his attention trained on the Marimba, Sophomore Cole Frey plays music from "The Incredibles" with Junior Marcus Miller. "I only get a few measures that are sometimes hard, but other than that, since I don't march on the field, it's not really hard," Frey said. Frey also plays in the Concert Band and Pep Band.



On the drum set, Junior Kaja Sims plays her solo during a home basketball game. "I like the different music we play," Sims said. "We have more fun in Pep Band than Concert Band." The Pep Band practices twice a week.

Hard work, determination lead to band's success

Marching Band students begin the school year with the fall festival season, waking up early and sometimes showing up to Saturday morning pre-competition rehearsals in pajamas and sweatpants to run through their performance to make sure their songs, movements and visuals are just right.

The early mornings and dedication to their music and marching paid dividends. The band earned a gold rating at the Hobart High School Invitational, and again at the Kankakee Valley Invitational. Marching season finished with a silver rating at the Indiana State School Music Association competition at Crown Point High School.

"It is kind of upsetting that we finished with silver, but I still feel like we had a successful year," Sophomore Kristyn Rogers said.

This year's Marching Band show showcased music from "The Incredibles." The show, "Incognito," featured trumpet soloist Junior Xavier Madera and saxophone soloist Sophomore Gregory Romeo.

"Mr. Mark Danielson and the assistant directors, Ms. Laura Smeltzer, Mr. Christopher Haddad and Mr. D.J. Sparks, chose this music because of its jazzy influences and because the difficulty of the music would challenge the whole band while entertaining students and audiences alike," Drum Major Senior Yvonne Luna said.

Although the music was challenging at times, band students said they learned a lot from this show.

"The different time signature changes were challenging to conduct at first. The conducting patterns were new to me because it was my first year as a drum major," Sophomore Mik'el Mays said. "I'm proud of the band because we were disciplined during band camp, so we got a lot of work done."

Mr. Danielson and band students agree that the key to a successful season is establishing good relationships with the people in the band, regardless of sections.

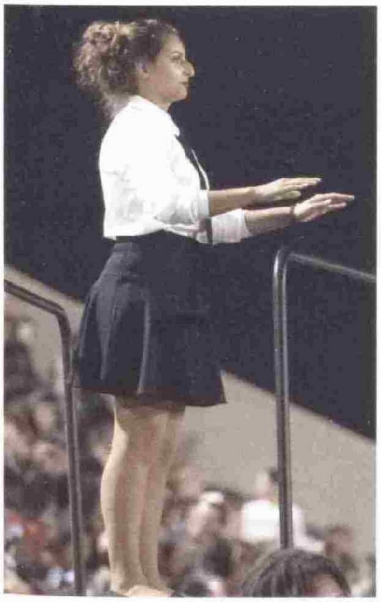
"I have very hardworking kids, and we have a very close bond, like a family," Mr. Danielson said.

Band students said that competitions and performances require personal effort to be successful. Students agreed that practicing show music outside of band rehearsals is necessary for success on the marching field.

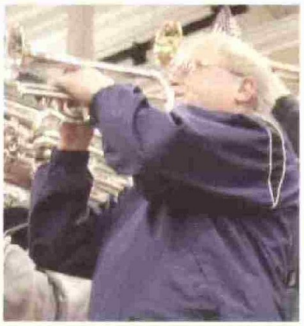
"We work together as much as we can during our rehearsals, but so much of it comes down to student practice," Luna said.

Band members said that, even though they could have done better, they feel accomplished and hope to have another successful season next year.

"I feel like next year will be even better," Sophomore Kayla Josleyn said.



To set the tempo and unify performers in the band during the halftime performance at a home football game, Senior Arianne Conn conducts from atop a podium. "Since this is my first year conducting the entire band, it was challenging to gain respect from my fellow peers," Conn said. She said although it was tough being a conductor, she enjoyed seeing everyone succeed.



Performing during the basketball game, Band Director Mr. Mark Danielson plays the trumpet. "In order to be a great band director, I had to know how to play an instrument in each section," Danielson said. Danielson said he has been playing the trumpet since 1971.

Cadets learn discipline as they work for community

Cadets in the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp spend the year performing community service, participating in competitions, learning about aerospace science and developing leadership skills.

Even with all this work, they still find time to have fun during the school year. The cadets enjoy fun nights, a scary movie night, a Christmas party and a video game night.

"The Military Ball is a formal evening for our cadets," Senior Sarita Gaona said. "This introduces our cadets to a formal event. Seniors are recognized and a guest speaker gives cadets a motivational speech. It also introduces the underclassmen to learn formal etiquette and, lastly, to have fun. "

Gaona said drill teams learn military commands and execute them during competition.

"Color Guard is respectfully displaying the flag of the United States and what branch our ROTC represents," she said. "Color Guard includes two rifle men on opposite sides of the flag next to each other."

Some cadets said they joined because a family member in the past was in ROTC. Candidates who participate in ROTC for three years can get a promotion and advancement in the military.

"It also teaches discipline, respect and increases your moral character," Gaona said. "In 8th grade, I saw a drill routine performed in the auditorium. Discipline and uniform intrigued me."

Serving the Merrillville community remains at the forefront of their mission.

"We try helping with whatever we can around the school," Major Guy Ramey said. "When we host our blood drives, it varies from year to year. We can do up to four blood drives a year. This year, we're doing one in February and then we're doing one in April."

Community service projects include serving as guides during Parent-Teacher Night and Freshman Orientation. They also participate in Adopt-A-Highway by cleaning debris on Broadway.

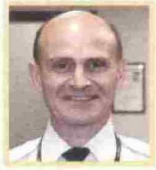
Major Ramey said cadets help pack food in the Pack-Away Hunger project. They are sent to various locations where they're needed.

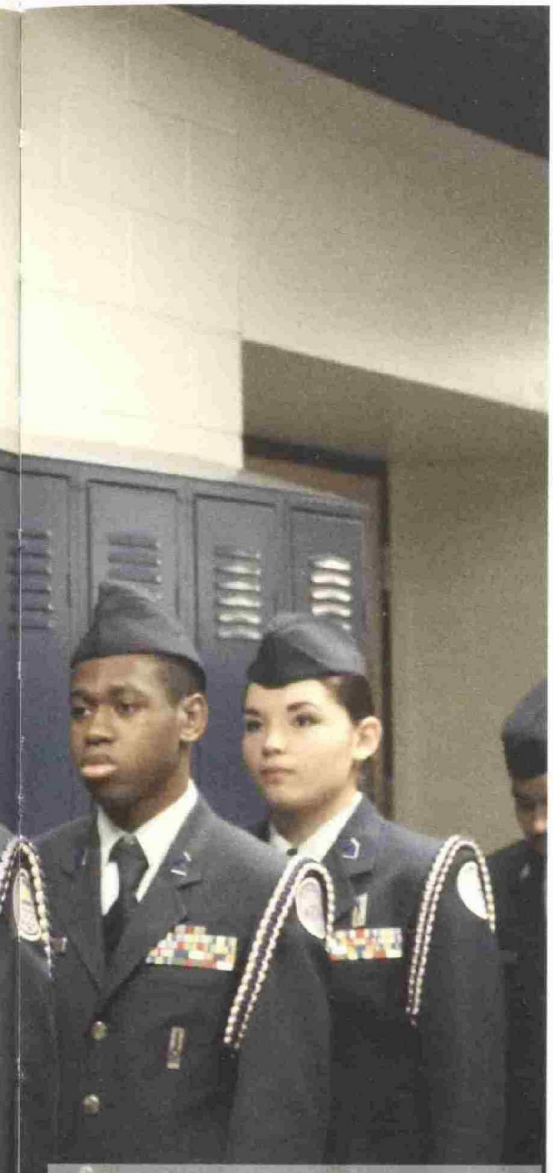
"The process takes place by setting up an assembly line and they pour rice, soy for protein, chicken for more protein and vegetables," Major Ramey said. "The cadets work for about two- to three-hour shifts. One of the bags has enough to feed six people. This is our biggest community service event."

Participating the "Adopt a Highway" program, Chief Master Sergeant Senior Tammiah Ingram cleans debris on Broadway. This program is one of the community service options that the ROTC sponsors. "I really enjoy this activity. We all just reminisce about all the good times we share in ROTC, and it's one of the small things that keeps us united," Ingram said. To show they're involved in keeping Merrillville clean, Ingram said that they try to "adopt a highway" about three times during the school year, depending on the severity of winter.

"Financial problems in Buffalo, New York, caused them to close the program, so I applied to MHS. I was interviewed by Dr. Mark Sperling at the time. He gave me an offer, and I accepted. Now here I am 12 years later."
Major Guy Ramey

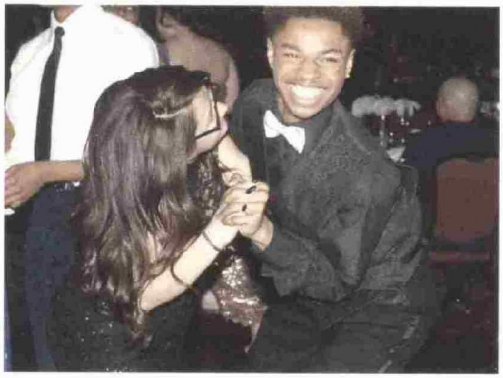
"The best part about teaching ROTC is helping to develop cadets into mature young men and women who are disciplined and are going to be productive members of our society,"
Senior Master Sergeant Daniel Wrasman



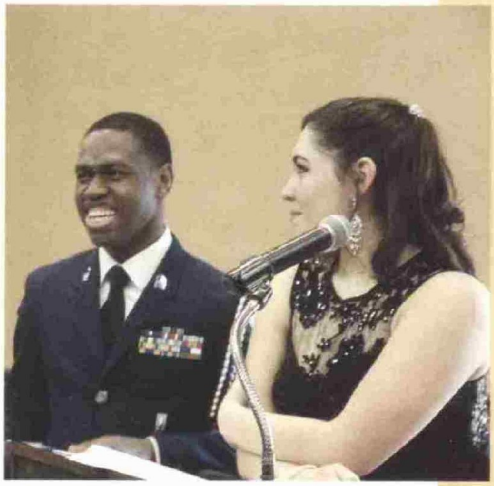


While standing in line with his fellow cadets, Cadet Major Senior Phillip Barnes Jr. prepares to compete in Ohio. "Being in ROTC since my freshman year has made me realize that if you want to do something, then you should just put your mind to it and do it," Barnes said. He said it's bittersweet knowing that it's his last year of ROTC in high school.

Left: Saluting a drill sergeant, Second Lieutenant Freshman Brooklyn Ford competes at a drill meet. "I enjoy being in ROTC and plan on doing it for all four years of high school and eventually go off to the army," Ford said. She said she has learned to be self-disciplined and to respect people more by being in ROTC. Below: At the annual Military Ball, Cadet Major Senior Andre' Peterson Jr. gets ready for his speech with Senior Sarita Gaona. Peterson was the master of ceremonies. "My favorite part of the whole ball was probably because it was my last year attending," Peterson said. "And the senior recognitions. I was able to tell everyone what I plan on doing after I graduate. It was pretty great."



At his second Military Ball, Junior Mahqueese McMillan dances with his date, Junior Victoria Terry. "Since I'm not in ROTC, it was very nice to see how they all do things, and I was able to meet all the important people involved," McMillan said. "Overall, it was a big honor to go." McMillan said he learned that the military takes everything seriously, and people who attended the ball have to be quiet during the ceremony to show respect. Below: At the Anchor Bay Competition, Captain of the Unarmed Exhibition Team Junior Carlos Mejia commands his team. "Considering this was my team's first drill competition," Mejia said, "my team really bonded with each other." In Michigan, the drill members stayed in a hotel, and Mejia was a room leader. During the competition, Mejia's team was tied for first place, but they ended up being ranked second.



Drill Team Competitions

Anchor Bay, Michigan
Overall – 3rd place
1st Year Unarmed Drill Team – 2nd place
1st Year Color Guard– 3rd place
Advanced Armed Drill Team – 1st place
Advanced Unarmed Drill Team – 2nd place
Inspection Team – 2nd place
Unarmed Exhibition Team– 2nd place

Midview, Ohio
Overall – 3rd place
1st Year Unarmed Drill Team – 3rd place
1st Year Armed Drill Team – 3rd place
1st Year Color Guard – 4th place
Inspection Team – 3rd place
Armed Exhibition Team – 3rd place
Individual Awards
Sixth Place – Cadet Kayla Hudson
Fifth Place – Cadet Austin Griffith

Hopkins County, Kentucky
1st Year Team – 1st place overall
1st Year Inspection Team – 1st place
1st Year Color Guard – 2nd place
1st Year Unarmed Drill Team – 3rd place
Tandem Exhibition – 1st place
Advanced Unarmed Drill Team – 2nd place
Advanced Color Guard – 3rd place
Individual Awards
Second Place – Cadet Raymond Davila
Fourth Place – Cadet Jonathan Collins
Seventh Place – Cadet Samantha Perea
Eighth Place – Cadet Kayla Hudson
Second Place – Cadet Tammiah Ingram
Fifth Place – Cadet Austin Griffith
Sixth Place – Cadet Joshua Milla
Seventh Place – Cadet Raymond Davila

Beginning Band

Director: Mr. Mark Danielson

Front row: Angelique Woods, Shania Blue, Cameron Louthan; Second row: Jimaris Hutch, Cameron LaBelle, Annie Castleberry, Kelli Thomas, Michael Gaines Jr., Jade Hamilton, Kristen Semmes, Bryan Sobczak, Samaria Patrick, William Fulton III; Third row: Jared Howard, Brian Otis Jr., Giovani Feliciano, Sebastian Diaz, Tatiana Gilbert, Isata Samba, Joshua Kirksey, Jaylen Glass, Leilani Cruz, Mr. Danielson; Back row: Sidney Holmes, Jacob Weber, Joseph White, Aubin Robinson, Rackesh Ragu, Jacob Dockins, Daniel Lewis, Eric Kendrick Jr., Paul Lopez Jr., Anthony Atria, Derrick Jones III, Vincente Altieri.

Advanced Band

Director: Mr. Mark Danielson

First row: Kennedy Cole, Arianne Conn, Makayla Hollingsworth, Kristyn Rogers, Kayla Josleyn, Devin Hence, Jessica Gamble, Jahnari Pruitt; Second row: Israel Melendez III, Jansen Tan, Yvonne Luna, Serena Thormann, John Sawyer, Keith Baker, Sabrina Thormann, Noah Bradley, Breshaye Spear, Caleb Hiller, David Walls; Third row: Cameron Woods, Allison Vanderbilt, Xavier Madera, Asha Kizer, Matthew Alleyne, Gregory Romeo, Jalen Adams, Keylian Brown, Gerald Akujobi Jr., Angelica Knox, Vanessa Bush; Fourth row: Brenna Bell, Isaac Graham, Nana Asabere, Milan Trajovski, Emmanuel Willis, Adalberto Acosta, Jada Day, Adrianna Carey; Back row: Adrian Brooks, Drelen Williams, Cole Frey, Marcus Miller, Mik'el Mays, Tyler Carlisle, Michael Shannon, Timothy Porter IV, Cameron Figueroa, Carrington Morse, Daniela Waiters, Mr. Danielson.

Intermediate Band

Director: Mr. Mark Danielson
Front row: Yvonne Luna, Kayla Hudson, Khayla Harris, Erin Sims; Second row: Karla Deleon, Kyrah Pirtle, Sean Noonan, Derrick Taylor, Preston Shirley; Third row: Mr. Danielson, Isaiah Taylor, Yantre Edwards, Joseph Stevenson, Iziah Readus; Back row: Demond Beatty, Kyle Semmes, Donyel Borom, Edmund Gunn Jr., Camdoen Martin.

Jazz Band

Director: Mr. Mark Danielson
Front row: Kelli Thomas, Noah Bradley, Samaria Patrick, Caleb Hiller, Kayla Josleyn, Cheyenne Figueroa, Maria Tan, Annie Castleberry, Mr. Danielson; Second row: Sabrina Thormann, Angelica Knox, Gregory Romeo, Joshua Kirksey, Gerald Akujobi Jr., Xavier Madera, Allison Vanderbilt, Giovani Feliciano; Third row: Cameron Figueroa, Serena Thormann, Emmanuel Willis, Milan Trajkovski, Brenna Bell, Isaac Graham, Vincente Altieri, Derrick Jones III, Sidney Holmes; Back row: Michael Shannon, Hailey Perryman, Matthew Spicknall, Samora Patrick, Mik'el Mays.

Intermediate Orchestra

Director: Mr. Darrell Murray
Front row: Damari Ramos, Asia Gray, Justin Kiel, Ivory Jones, Emily Lesich; Second row: Chadryne Tamo, Carly Gubits, Ashlei Hunt, Cheynne Figueroa, Shaina Williams, JaeLenn Johnson, Brenda Garcia, Angela Pejovski, Taelor Hill, Tori Holst; Third row: Rachel McChristian, Brittney Cain, Jacob Cabrera, Olivia Taylor, Kayla Miller, Gabrielle Schindler, Courtney Chaves, Ivori Fulton; Back row: Sydney Sheppard, Jasmine Collins, Aunteria Howard, Oscar DeLa Cruz, Kyle Noonan, Kinnedi Davis, Alexus Simpson, Ivelisse Taylor, Mr. Murray.

Beginning Orchestra

Director: Mr. Darrell Murray

Front row: Lauryn Thomas, Tykia Jones, Diego DeLa Cruz, Brookelyn Burks, Anna Vinson, Ashyah Perry; Second row: Maria Tan, Amari Pryor, Jacqueline Flores, Camille Walls, Elizabeth Reyes, Alyssa Blondet, Moriah Jones, Natalia Gonsales, Lauren Moody, Hailee Martin, Elisha Cooper, Imani Butts, Cheyenne Roberts, Imani Hicks; Third row: Leanne Tennione, Alyssia Ornelas, Alexa Fernandez, Nadia Jones, Santana Southall, Melissa Gutierrez, Kiyah Walker, Daniella Uvalle, Nina Maldonado, Serena Robertson, Jordan Kincade, Saniah Isabell, Scarlett Peralta, Angelina Clark, Tavia Campbell; Fourth row: Jasmin Creal, Daria Johnson, Janaye Thomas, Erryonne Watts, Jaden LaRue, Bailey Rapavi, Akilah Ware, Marvin White, Nijaia Jones, Alexis Lumpkin, Jordan Holmes, Jonathan Collins II, Kristah Royster, Angelay Woods, Jakailyn Aaron; Back row: Nialah Clay, Reem Sulieman, Olivia Stevens, Miller Blackwell IV, Hailey Perryman, Lloyd James III, Samora Patrick, Hailey Karpen, Donovan Marteen, Ivan Sahagun, Daniel Hernandes, Mr. Murray.

Intermediate Orchestra

Director: Mr. Darrell Murray

Front row: Joshua Hiller, George McLendon, Tyler Jasso, Brendea McNeal, Briyanna McNeal, Natlie Paz, D'Angelo Brown, Maxwell Stevens; Second row: Katelyn Vinson, Stephanie Puente, Heather Osorio, Dulce Cuazitl, Angela Pejovski, Rosario Contreras, Ti'Mair McMullan, David Rosa, Alana Charles, Linyhia Muex-Miller, Lacey Davis; Third row: Kennedy Tanniehill, Viviana Lagunas, Jada Edwards, Joshel Richards, Tatyannah Cross, Cryst'n Morgan, Juan Adame, Madison Blackwell, Monique Guydon, Tatiana Peters, Madison Bullock; Back row: Mr. Murray, Taylor Ballard, Lauren Stanley, LaAshtiana Ivey, Terry Sabbath, Ronald Woods, Samia Henley, Darrel Glass II, Jazzybell Quinones, Joseph Harris II.

Advanced Orchestra

Director: Mr. Darrell Murray

Front row: Emily DeCausemaker, Morgan Brinker, Torian Bryant, Steffan Santiago, Gia Sadural, Breonna Baggett, Isobel Collins, William Smith; Second row: Mr. Murray, Kathleen Aton, Claribell Quinones, Cecilia Irizarry, Hope Krajnak; Third row: Grettel Peralta, Eryn Jenkins, Mya Wilson, Timoya Bryant, Anya Johnson, Haley Funches, Angela Terry, Alexis Delk, Alisha Mongold, Ahveyon Williams; Fourth row: Brook Shelton, Emily Glover, Maya Griffin, Jada Johnson, Melissa Brayfield, Jhonae' Garmon, Hannah Duran, Dominique Carpenter, Danielle Dewees; Back row: Matthew Spicknall, Willow Johnson, Megan Mays, Antonio Cruz Jr., Lauren Pryle, David Hinton II, Maxwell Moore, Brianna Raketic, Mahqueese McMillan, Aleecia Niezgoda.

Intermediate Choir Girls

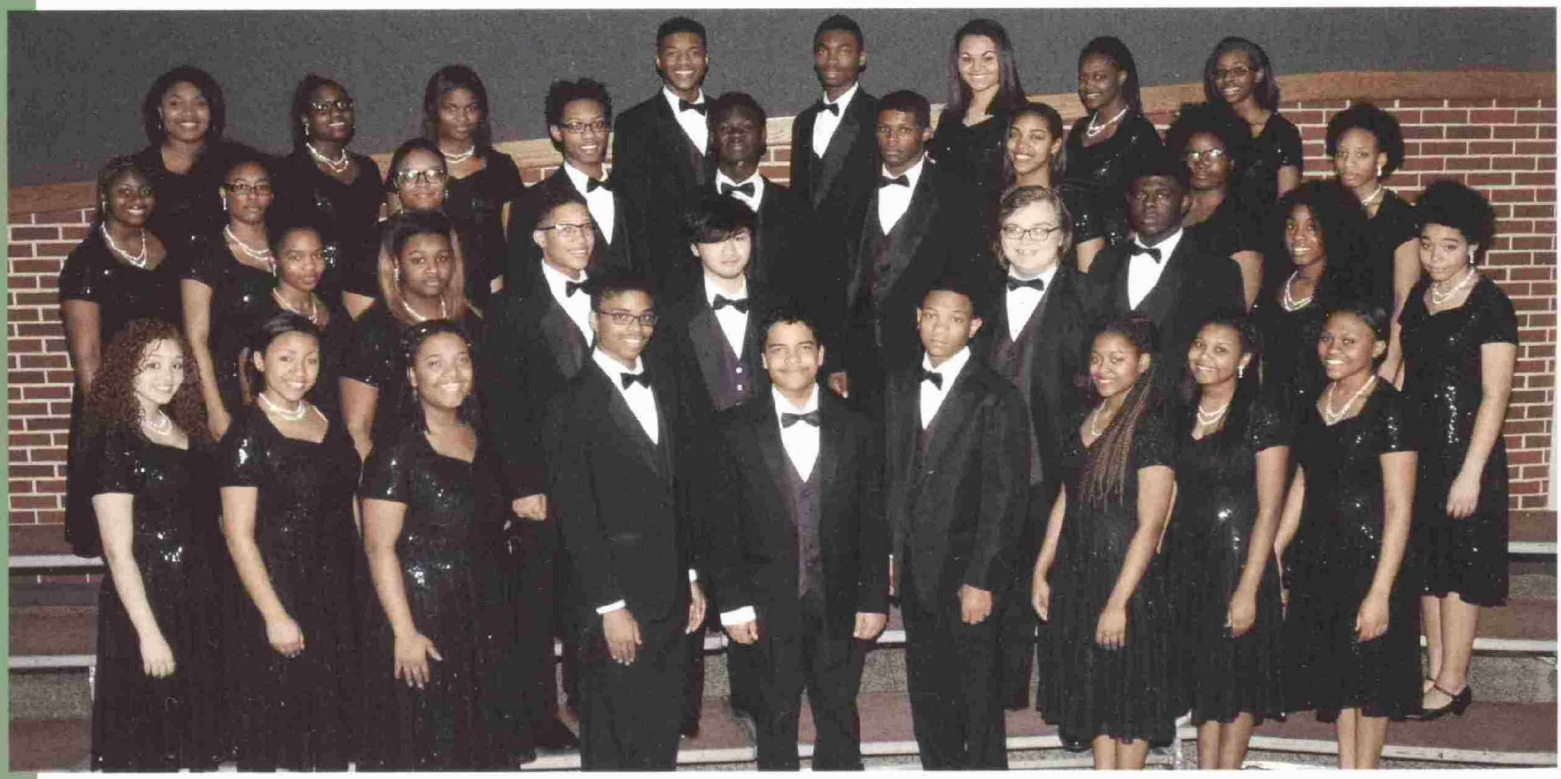
Director: Mrs. Melinda Reinhart

Front row: Mariana Martines, Maria Carbajal, Asia Maynor, Leah Waiters, Erica Serros, Alyssia Whiteside, Leslie Hardin, Jasmine Beamon; Second row: Medina Griffin, Czaria Freeman, Azjanae Cruz, Kiarra Jones, Jordyn Bates, Angel Collins, Kaylah Johnson, Heaven Tomlinson, Shianne Woods; Third row: Natalie Dye, Damione Miller, Vanessa Peluyera, Dyana Brinson, Mary Turcotte, Raeanne Davila, Autumn Kiser, Alexandria Umbarger; Back row: Areiana Whiteside, Savannah Cox, Jazmine Huffmon, Breanna Phillips, Airika Buckley, Elizabeth Wilck, Coretta Bush, Destiny Dantzler.

Intermediate Choir

Director: Mrs. Melinda Reinhart

Front row: Samantha Williamson, Olivia Guevara, Braden Worthington, Alexis Smith, Najalynn Chandler, Kailey Walassek, Leia Mesarch, Gabrelle Lobins, Klimentina Pejovski; Second row: Eelecia Garron, Jasmine Jaramillo, Kayla Parkham, Ma'Kaela Patterson, Kayla Roberson, SaSha Dailey, Brianna Kenyon, Kendra Turner, Michael Johnson, Arianna Jarrett; Third row: Anjel Highbaugh, Sierra Harris, Nautica Hardy, Sabrina Lopes, Jamie Guzman, Kylah Nicholson, Naomi Fields, Te'Reyah Gaines, Brianna Ward, Nora Jones; Fourth row: Savannah Shirley, Reality Cramer, George Perosky, Tyler Russell, Gabriel Macapagal, Lucas Reinhart, Keith Barnard, Maxwell Govert, Christian Glover, Nicholas Cross; Back row: Trenton Hutch, Dennis Weston, Brandon Shelton, Devin Pope, Jordan Crook, Kaila Buggs, Briany Wagner, Yancy Tyler Jr., Antonio Brooks, Brandon Polk, Xavier King, Arielle Lackey.



Advanced Choir

Director: Mrs. Melinda Reinhart

Front row: Jasmine Martinez-Santa, Cardalina Hernandez, Cynthia Hindmon, John Grace Jr., Brian Moore, JaKobe Wilbon, Imani Purnell, Kiariah Carter, Cara Blanford; Second row: Sharice Jackson, Lacey Bridgeman, Justin Smith, Emmanuel Aton, Jacob Reinhart, Isaiah Davis, Jlah Massie, Nicole Hollowell; Third row: Mia Godfrey, Marrisa McClelland, Nikita Weaver, Ronald Brewer, Tyreak Thomas, Antonio Cornelius,Cherise Higgins, Dashanee Hunter, Yolanda Lewis-Kelly; Back row: Scarlett Smith, Jaia Montgomery, TasMarie Johnson, Rashawn Mills, Antonio Basemore, Charysse James, Sharee Ramsey, Danielle LeGrand.

Unarmed Drill Team
Sponsors: Maj. Guy Ramey and SSgt. Daniel Wrasman
Front row: Ceana Escalante, Brooklyn Ford, Samantha Perea, Kayla Hudson; Second row: Madisyn Armstrong, Michael Hollowell Jr., Jonathan Collins II, Kyra Stevens, Yolanda Lewis-Kelly, Joshua Milla, Rosharia Crawford; Third row: Jyllean Haymon, Eric Ramos, Tammiah Ingram, Sarita Gaona, Christopher Saporito, Samaria Patrick, Philip Barnes, Isaac Caballero; Back row: Anthony Banks, Brandon Root, Raymond Davila Jr., Desmond Collins, Austin Griffith, Antonio Cornelius, Andre' Peterson, Qua'lyn Cowart.

Armed Drill Team
Sponsors: Maj. Guy Ramey and SSgt. Daniel Wrasman
Front row: Rasharia Crawford, Joshua Milla, Yolanda Lewis-Kelly, Kyra Stevens, Michael Hollowell Jr., Samantha Perea, Kayla Hudson; Back row: Isaac Caballero, Tammiah Ingram, Brandon Root, Austin Griffith, Raymond Davila Jr., Andre' Peterson, Jyllean Haymon.

ROTC Top 6
Sponsors: Maj. Guy Ramey and SSgt. Daniel Wrasman
Front row: Tammiah Ingram, Sarita Gaona, Andre' Peterson, Brandon Root, Philip Barnes, Antonio Cornelius.

Color Guard
Sponsors: Maj. Guy Ramey and SSgt. Daniel Wrasman
Front row: Jonathan Collins II, Kayla Hudson, Samantha Perea, Joshua Milla; Second row: Yolanda Lewis-Kelly, Austin Griffith; Back row: Michael Hollowell Jr., Brandon Root, Andre' Peterson.

We participated

"It felt like we were uplifting and inspiring them."
Sophomore Damione Miller
Voices of Reason

"It helps students coming in, and the activities we do with the freshmen help them as well."
Senior Miracle Akins
Freshman Mentor

"I love writing, and I get to follow my dream to write about sports. I want to become a sports writer."
Sophomore Maxwell Govert
Newspaper

"My favorite memory is when we went to Lincolnshire Nursing Home and sang Christmas carols and passed out presents."
Sophomore Courtney Wilson
Youth Enriched by Service

"My favorite memory was taking the children to Navy Pier and touring them around because it gave me a chance to influence the children in a positive way."
Sophomore Ashlyn Robinson
STAND

"I really love listening to people express how they feel and their life story and experiences."
Junior Carlos Mejia
IMPACT Day Facilitator

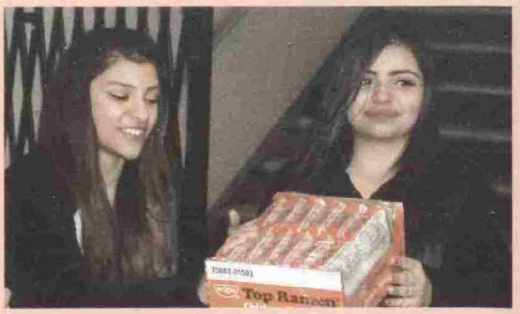
"French Club has been a really cool club. You really get to embrace yourself in a new culture. You get to really see what we learn in class."
Senior Jamie Bhe
French Club

Student Government

Sponsors: Ms. Amanda Kennedy and Ms. Sheryl Loving
Front row: Sara Ramirez, Jaslyn Martinez, Maria Carbajal, Barbara Carbajal, Paulina Lupercio; Second row: Alicia Frazier, Viridiana Carrillo, Erica Serros, La'Deja Rand, Tiarra Jones, Sabrina Sanches, Allanisette Dawson; Back row: Ms. Loving, Halina Duke, Leroy Holliday, Anthony Hardin, Alan Martinez, Jaliyah Price, Louis Rand Jr.

Student Government Officers

Sponsors: Ms. Amanda Kennedy and Ms. Sheryl Loving
Historian Viridiana Carrillo, President Maria Carbajal, Treasurer Alicia Frazier. Not pictured: Secretary Alexis Anderson.

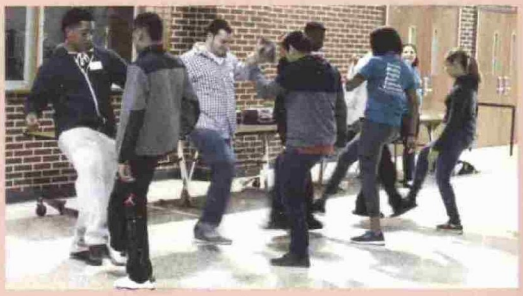


For Student Government's Food Drive, Juniors Leticia Jimenez and Paulina Lupercio help pack Ramen noodles. "Our goal was to collect 1,000 cans, and we were able to surpass that goal, this year being more successful than last year's," Jimenez said. The food went to families who couldn't afford food for Thanksgiving. Jimenez said that partaking in this event helped her realize how many families didn't have food for the holidays.

For Student Government's Holiday Wish List, Senior Tyler Tanzymore delivers gifts that were donated by students and teachers. "I'm always open to helping others. It's something I always do," Tanzymore said. During the annual event, Student Government collected gifts for several less fortunate students of all grades in the Merrillville school system.

IMPACT Day Facilitators

Sponsor: Mrs. Beverly Van Drunen
Front row: Viridiana Carrillo, Ashley Mendez, Kylen Terrell, Edward Quintero, Casey Harvey, Haley Funches; Back row: Mrs. Van Drunen, Tyhlar Sain, Ashton Anekwe, Carlos Mejia, Austin Brakely-Lain, Tyreak Thomas, LaAshtiana Ivey, Mary Ann Wallace.



Dancing to the Cupid Shuffle at IMPACT Day, Junior Terrell Foster Jr. and the members of Group Seven step into the Kid 'n Play. "The dance was a good icebreaker because you put yourself in front of everyone," Foster said. "It's a good way to show everyone's creativity." Foster said he enjoyed the day because students learn to view people differently and not to be so quick to judge.

Peer Mediators

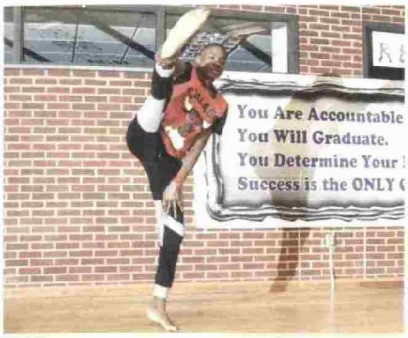
Sponsor: Mrs. Veronica Maldonado

Jessica Cole, Mrs. Maldonado, Viridiana Carrillo.

Bible Club

Sponsor: Mr. Dan Moslander

Front Row: Ashley Walton, Kyle Davis, Chloe Howard; Back Row: Ariella Broom, Miles Davis, Marcus Miller.



Left: At STAND's Coffeehouse, Sophomore Tori Hardin dances to the song "Gimmie Dat" by Ciara. "I know I did fantastic, as usual," Hardin said. "I love to dance." Hardin said he wasn't nervous at all because he always kills it on the dance floor. Right: Focused on the piano keys, Sophomore Mik'el Mays sings a duet to the song "Someone Like You" by Adele with Sophomore Adriana Carey. "We chose this song because we wanted a challenging piece to play on the piano and sing," Mays said. Mays wanted to audition for the Coffeehouse because he wanted to show off his talent.

Socially Together and Naturally Diverse

Sponsors: Mrs. Beverly Van Drunen and Mr. Andy Kaplar

Front row: Leah Ray, Halina Duke, Amarillis Rentas, Ashton Anekwe, Ashley Mendez, Carly Gubits, Brandy Hughes, LaAshtiana Ivey, Tyhlar Sain, Edward Quintero; Second row: Laya Beatty, D'Nay Lightning, Tiarra Jones, Adrianna Carey, Zaria Rock, Monique Guydon, Taelor Hill, Erryonne Watts, La'Deja Rand, Diaviyon Jackson; Third row: Alan Martinez, Brianna Williams, Savona Dukes, Serena Robertson, Saniah Isabell, Madison Bullock, Csaria Freeman, Jada Edwards, Jordyn Bates, Rosalia Cabello, Brookelyn Burks, Kayla Trotter; Fourth row: Preston Shirley, Sabrina Sanches, Viridiana Carrillo, Tatiana Peters, Rachel McChristian, Damione Miller, Tatyanah Cross, Breonna Baggett, Louis Rand Jr., Ja'Nesha Shelby, Navia Alexander; Back row: Mr. Kaplar, Steffan Santiago, Kemi Oduneye, Keith Jones Jr., Brianna Raketic, Crystal Shelby, Darrel Glass, Justin Hinton, Joseph Silvas, Yantre Edwards, Anjel Highbaugh, Justin Smith, Mrs. Van Drunen.

Junior Freshman Mentors

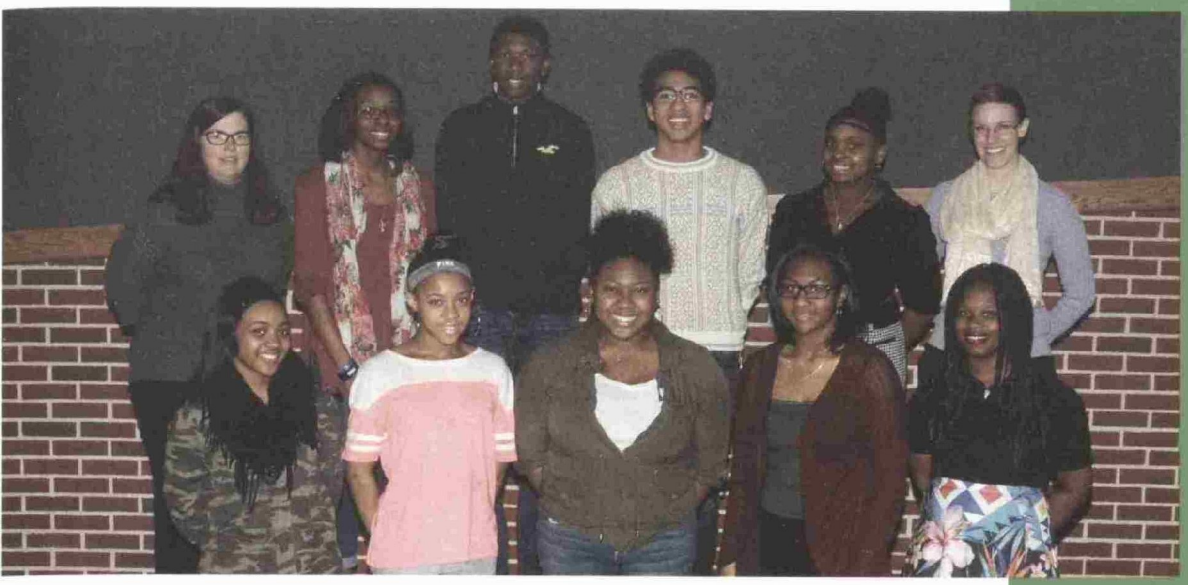
Sponsors: Mr. Dan Schoon and Mrs. Carol Dahlen

Front row: Cynthia Hindmon, Illaha Abdul, Asia Maynor, Mya Wilson, Simone Lara, Mi-Chae' Smith, Terra King, Princess Graham, Sairah Asghar, Leticia Jimenez; Second row: David Rosa, Michael De La Peña, Alexus Shirrells, Alan Martines, Unique Blakely, Halina Duke, Fernanda Barrera, Zacharia Landor, Arkayla Jones; Third row: Breonna Baggett, Symone McCray, Re'najah Thomas, Megan Mays, Tyler Jones, Samantha Kale-Foster, Cherise Higgins, JayLynn Hardrick, Anya Johnson, Kyrah Pirtle; Back row: Jakobe Edmond, Diontae Phillips, Carlos Mejia, Steffan Santiago, Nana Asabere, Darius Hutch, Antonio Cruz Jr., Justin Smith, Isiah Readus.

Senior Freshman Mentors

Sponsors: Mr. Dan Schoon and Mrs. Carol Dahlen

Front row: Crystal Lopez de Lara, Jacqueline Gutierres, Tiffany Holst, Dakota Shelton, Haley Funches, Dominique Carpenter, Eryn Jenkins, Katherine Williamson, Viridiana Carrillo, Rayana Reed, Imani Purnell; Second row: Briana Abbott, Miracle Akins, Raymond Duque Jr., Drelen Williams, LaTavia Knight, Mary Ann Wallace, Ashley Ojo, Dalin Tape, Devon Harmon, Selena Drake, Bri'Anna Rangel; Third row: Monique Yarbro, Jomaria Burns, Xakilah Williamson, Ashton Anekwe, Rashawn Mills, Chelsey Primm, Erika McClinton, Jacob Covaciu, Brian Baran, Kaila Byers, Hunter Kaiser; Back row: Jordan McDonald, David Hinton II, Isaiah Thornton, Joshua Hiller, Adam Neal, John Unmisig, Antonio Cornelius Jr., Alphonso Blackwell, Christian Martines, Adrian Brooks.



Mock Trial

Sponsors: Mrs. Alison Skertic and Ms. Ella Swinney
Front row: Imani Butts, Danijah Green, Deanna Burton, Jordyn Bates, Eelecia Garron; Back row: Mrs. Skertic, Danielle LeGrand, Joenathan Smith, Justin Hinton, Brookelyn Burks, Ms. Swinney.

Facing Sophomore Jason Cuevas, Freshman Julian Lewis makes his next move. "My strategy is to move my weaker pieces to the front and have my stronger pieces toward the back," Lewis said. "I was aiming for his king while also protecting my pieces." In the 47th annual Scholastic Chess of Indiana state competition at Morton High School in Hammond, the chess team placed 11th.

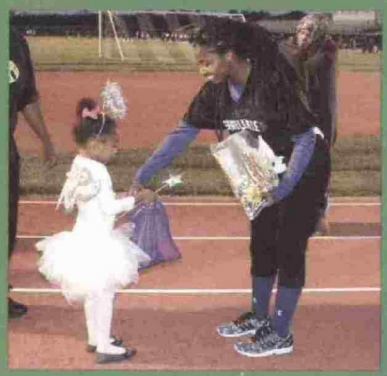
Playing against Sophomore James Green, Freshman Derek Williams practices while Sponsor Mr. Sean Meagher gives them pointers. "I try to be three steps ahead of my opponent," Williams said. Williams said that his strong suit is making an opponent think twice before moving a piece. "I joined the Chess Team because of its fun and competitive spirit," Williams said.

Chess Club

Sponsor: Mr. Sean Meagher
Front row: Julian Lewis, Marcus Miller, Nicholas Goodwin, Jason Cuevas; Back row: Hailey Karpen, Brandynn Reed, James Green, Mr. Meagher.

Merrillville Pirate Athletic Council

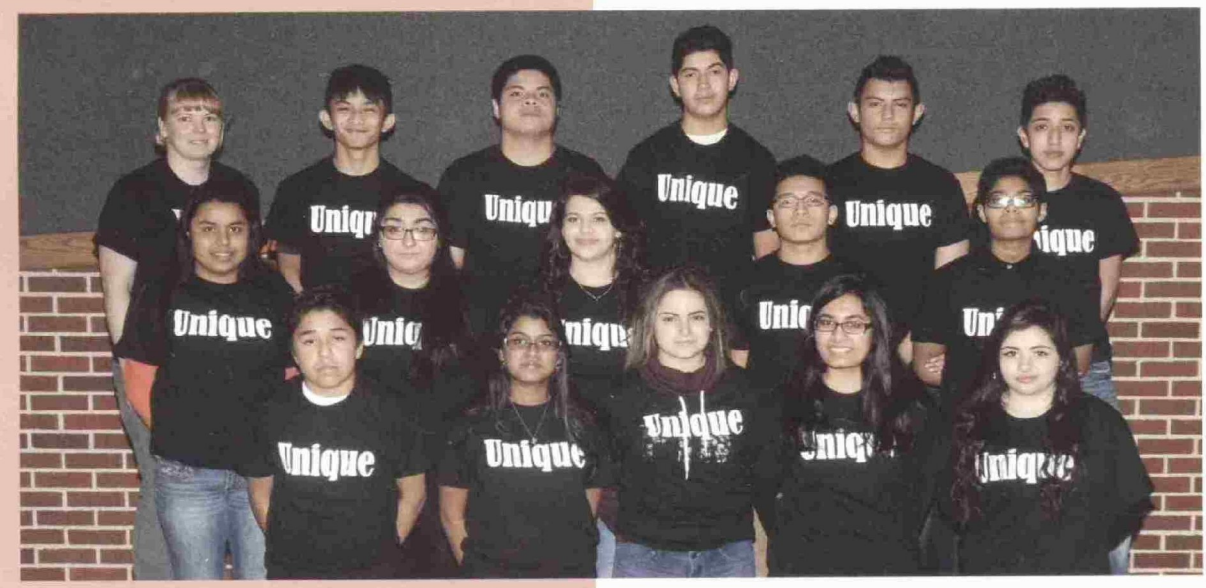
Sponsor: Ms. Janis Qualizza
Front row: Claribell Quiñones, Meagan Wise, Michael De La Peña, Brian Baran, Eryn Jenkins, Ebonie Ali; Second row: Bethany Rochefort, Kristin McGee, Kiarra Thompson, Maya Griffin; Back row: Jacob Covaciu, Hunter Kaiser, Marcus Miller, Jordan Young, Darius Kendall, Hannah Sawyer, Makayla Pearson.



Dressed as a football player at the annual Treats on Track Halloween event sponsored by the Merrillville Pirate Athletic Council, Senior Miracle Akins hands out candy to trick-or-treater Morgan Randolf. "I am part of the basketball team, and we came down to help out MPAC with the event. I also like to stay involved with our school," Akins said. Akins said seeing the smiles on the kids' faces gave her a warm, fuzzy feeling.

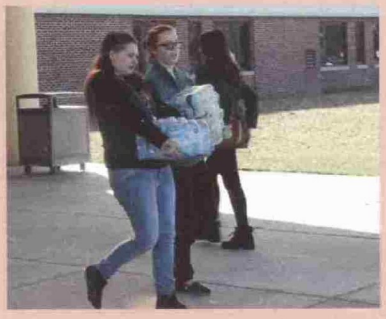
Spanish Club

Sponsors:
Mrs. Monica DaCosta Gomes and Mrs. Esmeralda Zamora
Front row: Kavitha Udumula, Viridiana Carrillo, Emily Ruis, Chadryne Tamo, Frida Pineda; Second row: Angela Terry, Karla DeLeon, Dulce Cuazitl, Jaslyn Martinez, Adrianna Rietman, Janaye Thomas, Leah Ray; Third row: Karrington Davis, Breonna Baggett, Alan Martinez, Christian Licea, Elizabeth Cuazitl, Kylah Shackelford, Trinity Hobbs; Back row: Mrs. DaCosta Gomes, Tatyanah Cross, Amarillis Rentas, Halina Duke, Steffan Santiago, Justin Hinton, Jacqueline Garza, Edward Quintero, Timisha Ivie, Mrs. Zamora.



English as a New Language

Sponsor: Ms. Dawn Czuba
Front row: Tomas Gonsales, Kavitha Udumula, Maria Carbajal, Sairah Asghar, Paulina Lupercio; Second row: Ana Gonsales, Illaha Abdul, Veronica Magallanes, Sebastian Diaz, Bilal Asghar; Back row: Ms. Czuba, Masayoshi Nangin, Jose' Barboza Garcia, Kevin Robles, Cristian Mendoza, Kevin Celestino.



In March, Seniors Anna Davis and Laura Bier carry cases of water donated for residents of Flint, Michigan. "The best thing in participating in this event was being able to help the town of Flint in this trying time," Davis said. The drive was first sponsored by Spanish Club, but it grew with the help of French Club, Key Club, Yes Club and the ROTC. Students collected more than 48 cases of water for Flint, twice the goal.

French Club

Sponsors: Ms. Irene Spiro and Mrs. Melissa Byerly
Front row: Aleecia Niezgoda, Crystal Lopes de Lara, Aubren Rosas, Marrisa Ramos, Alexis Smith, Alexa Fernandes; Second row: Casey Harvey, Brook Stone, Melissa Brayfield, Riayn Greene, Jaden LaRue, Jamie Bhe; Back row: Ms. Spiro, Unique Blakely, Joshua Ely, Justin Hinton, Andrea Fernandes, Amber King, Mrs. Byerly.

Newspaper

Adviser: Mrs. Teresa Procter
Front row: Yvonne Luna, Jamie Bhe, Najah Lewis-Singleton, Carissa Lewis, Bri'Yanna Pearson, Molly Murphy, Ashlyn Robinson; Back row: Justin Bhe, Timisha Ivie, Raegene Thomas, Andrew Vander Woude, Erika McClinton, Maxwell Govert.

During an Open Mic Night hosted by Society of Student Authors, Senior Liane Chambers sings "Say Something" by A Great Big World. Chambers participated in this event to get extra credit points in her AP Language class. "I performed in front of all the AP classes, and it was a great way to open up to them," Chambers said. This was her third time participating in Open Mic Night.

Society of Student Authors

Sponsor: Mrs. Melissa Sickinger
Front row: Mary Turcotte, Imani Purnell, Morgan Brinker, Hope Krajnak, Mrs. Sickinger; Back row: David Hinton II, Rashawn Mills, Timisha Ivie.

Quill & Scroll

Sponsor: Mrs. Teresa Procter
Front row: Ashlyn Robinson, Yvonne Luna, Ashley Mendez, Viridiana Carrillo, Molly Murphy; Second row: Jamie Bhe, Najah Lewis-Singleton, Diontae Phillips, Maxwell Govert, Kyra Stevens, Darius Adams; Back row: Andrew Vander Woude, Timisha Ivie, Ashton Anekwe, Justin Bhe, Tierra Harris, Erika McClinton.

Super Bowl

Sponsors: Mr. Paul Unterfranz and Ms. Debbie Monix
Front row: Morgan Brinker, Illaha Abdul, Courtney Chaves, Sairah Asghar, Kavitha Udumula, Chloe Howard; Back row: Ms. Monix, Kayla Johnson-Owens, Christopher Howard, David Hinton II, Unique Blakely, Kathryn Jurczyk, Ariella Broom.

Super Bowl focuses on Indiana

Students competing in Academic Super Bowl had to hit the books to become versed in Indiana's literature, history and natural resources.

They studied governors and were questioned about Paul McNutt, the governor in the 1940s. They learned about the contributions made by the Studebaker family in the South Bend area in the late 1900s.

"The best part about Super Bowl is learning things that I didn't know about Indiana," Junior Christopher Howard said.

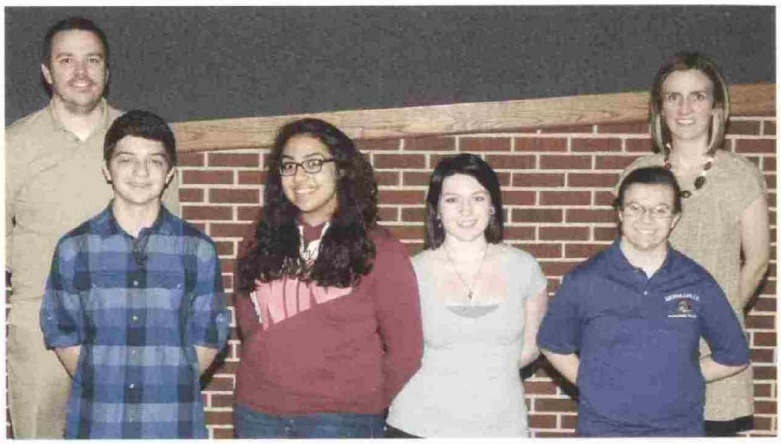
Junior Morgan Brinker and English team members Seniors Anna Davis and Courtney Chavez studied literature and authors from their home state.

At the Duneland Athletic Conference competition, the English team placed third.

In the regional competition, the science team of Senior David Hinton II and Juniors Illaha Abdul, Siarah Asghar and Kavitha Udumula finished in second place.

Spell Bowl

Sponsor: Ms. Debbie Monix
Front row: Kiarra Jones, David Hinton II, Nicholas Owens, DeVion Perry; Back row: Antonio Cornelius Jr., Ms. Monix.



Academic Decathlon

Sponsors: Mrs. Rachel Sonnenberg and Mr. Jason Sonnenberg
Front row: Christopher Riveron, Reem Sulieman, Tiffany Mason, Chloe Howard; Back row: Mr. Sonnenberg, Mrs. Sonnenberg.

Quick recall key to Quiz Bowl success

Quiz Bowl challenges members to quickly recall answers to questions about history, literature, fine arts, science, current events, sports and popular culture.

"One of the most challenging parts of Quiz Bowl is answering quickly," Senior David Hinton II said. "You have to be quick enough to buzz before the other team."

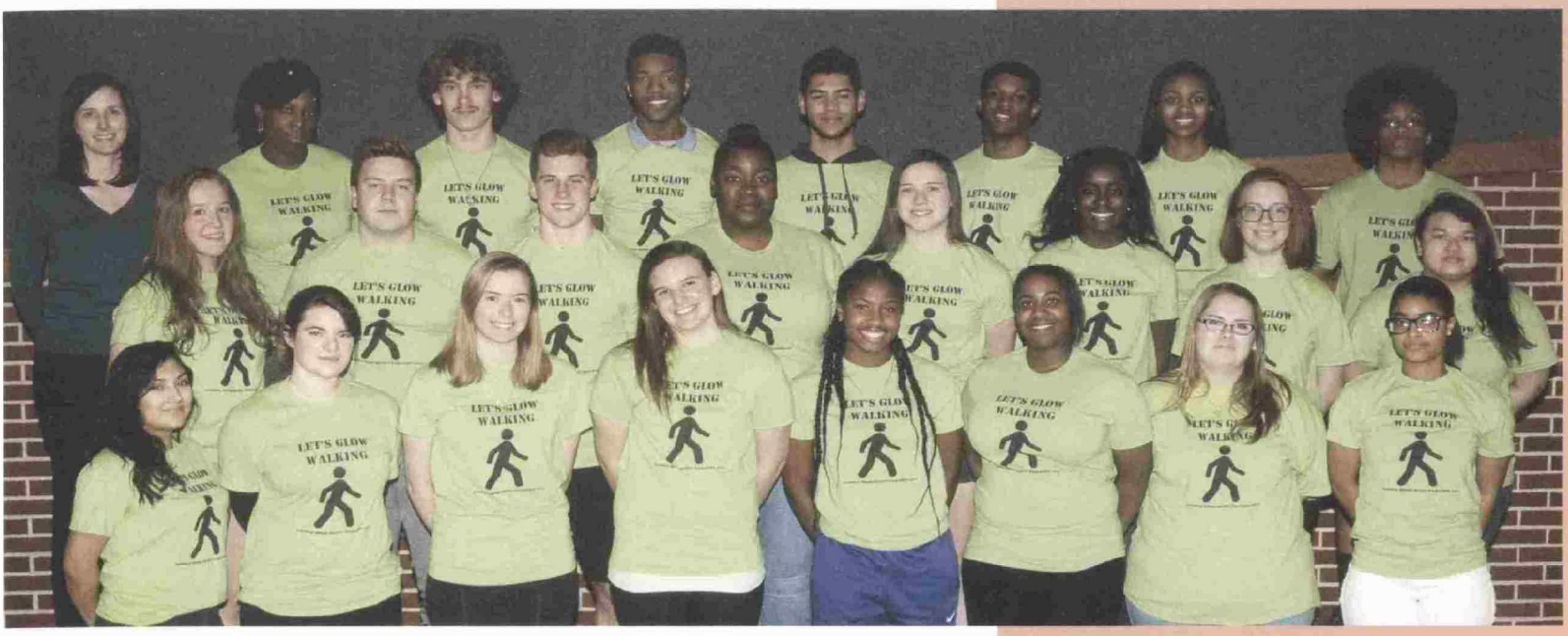
Four team members compete together in each category. During competition, rounds consists of questions in the categories.

"It's not really something you can study or prepare for," Senior Timisha Ivie said. "Either you know it or you don't."

Varsity and Junior Varsity teams both finished their season with a record of 3-7 in the Duneland Academic Conference competitions.

Quiz Bowl

Sponsor: Mrs. Melissa Sickinger
Front row: Miranda Cuozzo, Kayla Johnson-Owens, Courtney Chaves, Morgan Brinker, Hope Krajnak; Second row: Mrs. Sickinger; Back row: Christopher Howard, David Hinton II, Timisha Ivie, Joel Schwartz.



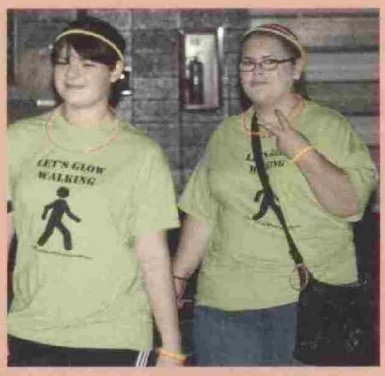
National Honor Society

Sponsors: Mrs. Melissa Sickinger and Ms. Erin Flores

Front row: Sara Ramirez, Hope Krajnak, Ashley Mendez, Jamie Bhe, Miracle Akins, Casey Harvey, Jillian Manis, Allanisette Dawson; Second row: Bethany Rochefort, Brian Baran, Jacob Covaciu, Timisha Ivie, Hunter Kaiser, Amber King, Laura Bier, Leslie Christie; Back row: Ms. Flores, Jordan McDonald, John Unmisig, Rashawn Mills, David Hinton II, Antonio Cornelius Jr., Kristin McGee, Diamonta Hodge.

Left: To show their support for students in the Special Education Department, Seniors John Unmisig and Brian Baran walk during the annual fundraising walk-a-thon. "It was a fun experience," Unmisig said. "It felt good knowing I was doing a good thing, but it was even better because we had fun while helping our fellow classmates."

Right: Walking around the track in the fieldhouse, Seniors Hope Krajnak and Jillian Manis participate in the walk-a-thon that raised $1,000 for special needs students. "The theme was glow in the dark," Krajnak said. "We got pledges for money before we walked and then walked after." Each of the 27 NHS members had to raise a minimum of $30 for the fundraiser.



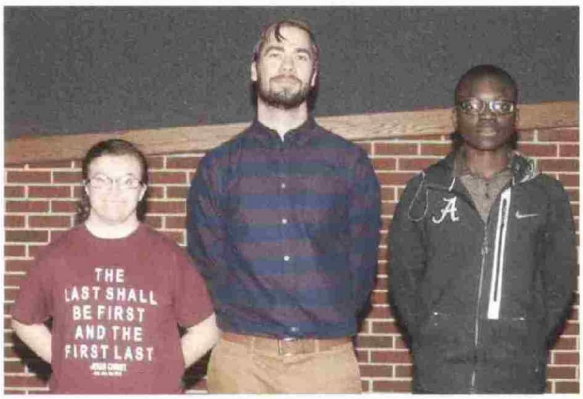
Pirate News Network

Advisers: Mr. Brian Past and Mr. Josh Harvoth

Front row: Shauntanelle Dixon, Fatouma Dika, Megan Wise, Allyssa Walls, Breonna Baggett, Nia Wells, Keara Gill, Jazzmyne Taylor, Katherine Williamson, Keelan Outlar; Second row: Aaron Vara, Anastasia Campos, Kiara Key, Rebecca Knight, Kathryn Jurczyk, Christopher Howard, Mary Ann Wallace, Jhonae Garmon, Ashley Ojo, Cameron Figueroa; Back row: Mr. Past, Justen Gordon, Tevon Lockett, Anfernee Hudson, Shamari Smith, Alivia Ash, Jermaine Davis II, Thomas Jones, Mr. Harvoth.

Thespian Society

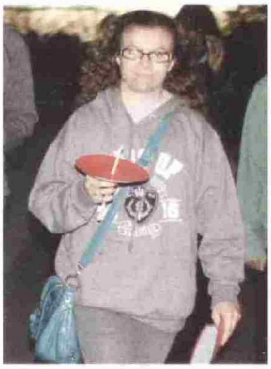
Director: Mr. Thomas Mackey Front row: Hope Krajnak, Mia Godfrey, Nia Wells, Anna Davis, Cynthia Hindmon; Second row: Xakilah Williamson, Lauren Moody, Selena Drake, Brookelyn Burks, Jasmine Jaramillo, JaKobe Wilbon, Karla DeLeon, Justin Smith; Third row: Leia Mesarch, Mary Turcotte, Aaron Vara, Brook Stone, Alisha Mongold, Kamri Smith, Kelli Thomas, Ronald Brewer; Fourth row: Ferdinand Aton, Aaron Booker, Elliott Ruffin Jr., Justin Hinton, Megan Mays, Amber King, Tyreak Thomas, Nicholas Cross, John Grace Jr., Mandie West, Keith Barnard; Back row: Mr. Mackey, Nicole Hollowell, Matthew Spicknall, David Hinton II, Michael Shannon II, Rashawn Mills, Antonio Cornelius Jr., Christopher Howard, Brandon Cummins, Nana Asabere.

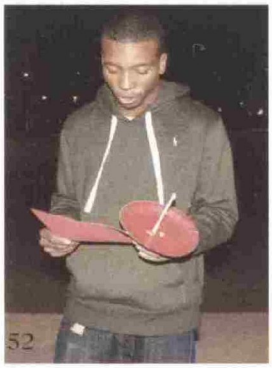


Students Against Destructive Decisions

Sponsor: Mr. Paul Unterfrans
Chloe Howard, Mr. Unterfrans, Kevin Attah.

While walking in the annual Candlelight Walk sponsored by Student Against Destructive Decisions, Senior Chloe Howard holds a candle. "One of my friends invited me to join SADD club," Howard said. "I stayed because of the activities planned for the year." Howard said SADD's goal is to help people to avoid making life-altering decisions by talking about consequences.





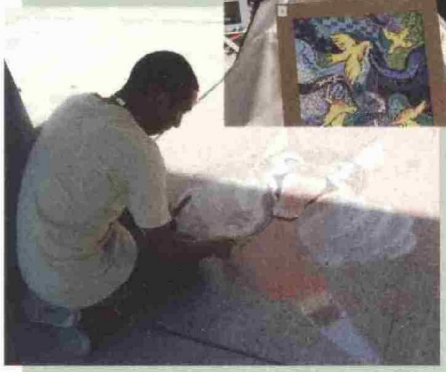
To help raise awareness, Junior TyRaye Austin reads statistics from accidents involving drunken driving crashes. "I participated to tell others not to do dumb stuff," Austin said. "Their whole lives are ahead of them, so don't throw it away." Austin said that he decided to do this to show that he cares.

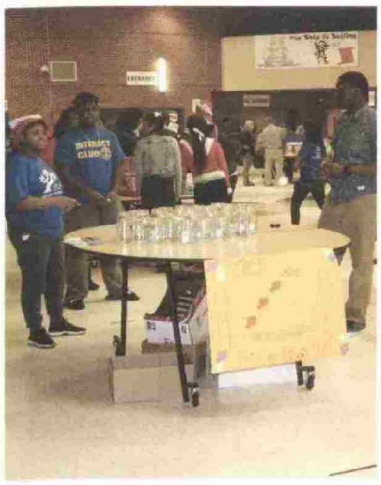
Art Club

Sponsor: Mrs. Janet Anderson
Front row: Marrisa McClelland, Wade Flournoy, Amber Davis, Briyauna McNeal, Julianne Roberts, Ralissa Andrews, Oscar De La Cruz, Kayla Sims; Back row: Diamonta Hodge, Charysse James, William Williams, Samantha Proper, Geremy Williams-Brown, Amber King, Mrs. Anderson.

At the Coffeehouse, Senior Arkayla Jones and Instructional Aide Mr. Andy Kaplar look at the art pieces being sold by the Art Club. "I always like to see the art pieces because some of them are so good that they could be in an art museum," Jones said. "You wouldn't expect your classmate to make an art piece that nice."

For Red Ribbon Week, Sophomore Wade Flournoy uses sidewalk art to show his artistic ability. "I was drawing a monster that was meant to represent what happens to a person who takes too many drugs," Flournoy said. Being in Art Club, Flournoy said, gives him the opportunity to express himself in his drawings and to show people what he can do.





During the annual Key Club Kids' Carnival, Sophomore Zaria Rock supervises a game. "I like playing with the younger kids," Rock said. She said the objective of the game was to have the kids toss balls into jars of water to win a small prize.

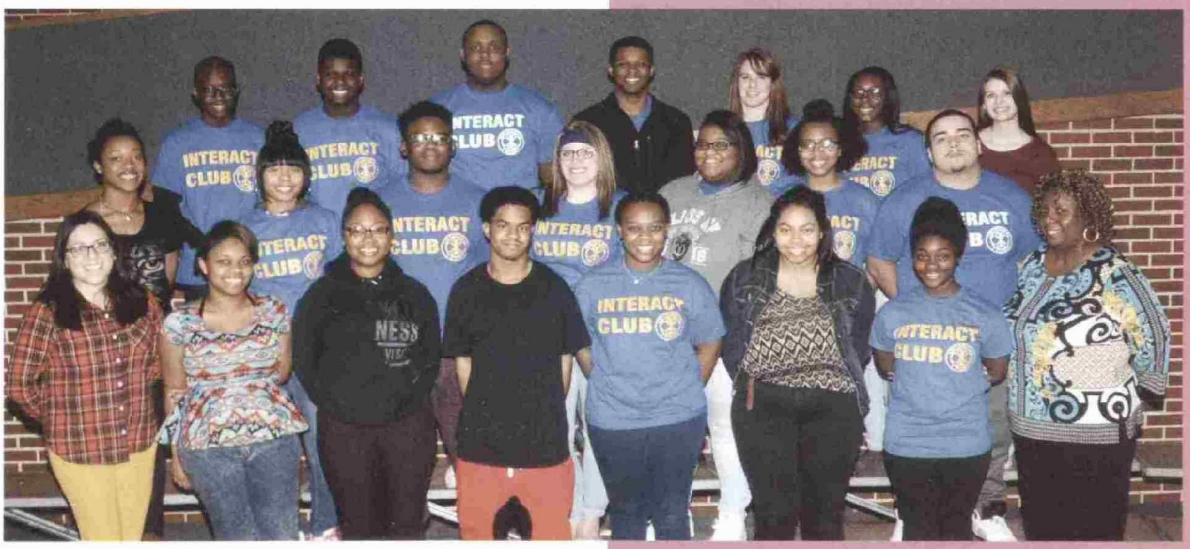
Youth Enriched by Service Club

Sponsors: Mrs. Veronica Maldonado and Ms. Betty Jordan
Front row: Mrs. Maldonado, Zaria Rock, Janel Roberts, Marchaun Johnson, Leah Ray, Karrington Davis, Isatou Samba, Ms. Jordan; Second row: Ralissa Andrews, Jessica Cole, De'Shaun Coleman, Courtney Wilson, Brandy Hughes, Halina Duke, Oscar Cabrera Jr.; Back row: Brandon Scott, Lloyd James III, Cameron Dunlap, Antonio Cornelius Jr., Hannah Sawyer, Tyhlar Sain, Samantha Kale-Foster.

Permanent Ink

Sponsors: Mr. David Hossler and Mr. Paul Trembacki
Front row: Aleecia Niesgoda, Erica Walton, Jada Johnson, Aaliyah Hall, Skye Baso, K.A.V.E.'T. Grooms; Back row: Mr. Hossler, Travis Babbitt, Brandon Long Jr., William Brumfield, Jahmari Pruitt, Brandon Pelaquin, Va'Quon Banks, Mr. Trembacki.

During the annual Key Club Kids' Carnival, Senior Jessica Cole supervises a game of pencil pull. "Being a part of Key Club involves raising money for different organizations," Cole said. Fifteen groups sponsored booths, including ENL, STAND, Student Government, Art Club, Spanish Club, The Guidance Office, Cheerleaders, Pom Squad, Permanent Ink, GSA Alliance, AFROTC, FCCLA, Key Club and YES Interact Club.



Key Club

Sponsors: Mrs. Veronica Maldonado and Ms. Betty Jordan
Front row: Mrs. Maldonado, Zaria Rock, Janel Roberts, Marchaun Johnson, Leah Ray, Karrington Davis, Isatou Samba, Ms. Jordan; Second row: Ralissa Andrews, Jessica Cole, De'Shaun Coleman, Courtney Wilson, Brandy Hughes, Halina Duke, Oscar Cabrera Jr.; Back row: Brandon Scott, Lloyd James III, Cameron Dunlap, Antonio Cornelius Jr., Hannah Sawyer, Tyhlar Sain, Samantha Kale-Foster.

Gay-Straight Alliance

Sponsor: Ms. Katelyn Holsclaw
Front row: Erika Cooper, Leslie Hardin, Nazaraih Perez, Lauren Moody, Jeremiah Perez, Alexis Smith; Second row: Virginia Frasier, K.A.V.E.'T. Grooms, Ja'nesha Shelby, Jennifer Baray, Cecilia Pedrosa, Aliyah Robinson, Cynthia Hindmon, Melanie Bunkley; Back row: Adrianna Carey, Nickolas Parker, Jaketa Scott, Yantre Edwards, Ajah Wilson, Bri'Anna Rangel, Kylah Shackelford, Tyreak Thomas, Ms. Holsclaw.

Voices of Reason

Sponsor: Mrs. Melinda Reinhart
Front row: Leslie Hardin, Alyssia Whiteside, Lacy Bridgeman, Nikita Weaver, Mia Godfrey; Second row: Jayson Jones, Cydney Cuthrell, Amber King, Dashanee' Hunter, Mary Turcotte; Back row: John Grace Jr., Jacob Reinhart, Rashawn Mills, Ronald Brewer, Antonio Brooks.

At Brookdale Nursing Home, Sophomore Damione Miller stops reading Christmas cards to the elderly to pose for a picture. "We read Christmas cards to them and sang Christmas songs to them," Miller said. "They were happy we took time out of our day to read and sing to them. Some were even crying because they were overjoyed with emotions." Miller said she enjoyed spending time with the elderly. She said she believed the members of Voices of Reason were uplifting them for the holiday season.

With the elderly from Brookdale Nursing Home, Juniors Leslie Hardin and Nikita Weaver pose for a picture. "It was a really nice experience," Hardin said. "A lady was crying to me and telling me how nice it was for us to come in and spend time with them because people hardly do that anymore."

Environmental Club

Sponsor: Mrs. Patricia Robison
Front row: Sarah Juares, Jasmine Jaramillo, Leia Mesarch; Back row: Kyle Noonan, Justin Hinton, Mrs. Robison.

Debate

Sponsor: Mr. Alan Mizimakoski
Front row: Ameer Holmes; Second row: Dontrease Haselett, Charysse James; Back row: Mr. Mizimakoski.

With Senior Mario Bedolla Jr., Senior Sarah Smith works on creating heart-shaped centerpieces for the annual dance for special needs students. "Making the centerpieces took a couple of meetings," Smith said. "We had trouble hot-gluing the heart pieces to the string so they can hang." Smith and Bedolla are members of Family, Consumer and Career Leaders of America, who hosts the dance.

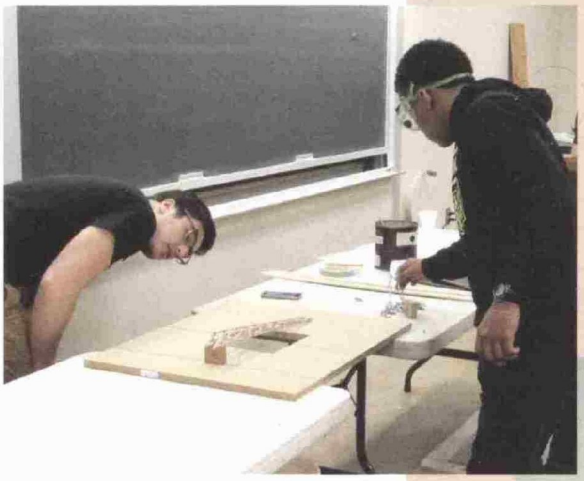
For the dance, Junior Najah Lewis-Singleton makes the boys' gift bags. "The boys' gift bags included school supplies," Lewis-Singleton said. "It was nice seeing the kids get so happy when we handed them their bags." The members of Family, Consumer and Career Leaders of America provide gifts for those attending the dance every year.

Family, Consumer and Career Leaders of America

Sponsor: Mrs. Carol Von Behren
Front row: Mrs. Von Behren, Jillian Manis, Sarah Smith, Jamie Bhe, Riayn Greene; Back row: Karrington Davis, Najah Lewis-Singleton, Mario Bedolla Jr., Amber King, Jordan McDonald.

Science Olympiad

Sponsors: Ms. Ronda Waters and Mr. Gary Schlinger
Front row: Marcus Miller; Second row: Cortes Battle, Jaia Montgomery; Back row: Ms. Waters.



After setting up his bridge for Science Olympiad, Freshman Cortes Battle watches as the testing judge evaluates it. "Building things is one of my strong suits," Battle said. "I enjoy it." Battle said that he would join next year because he had fun experiences and a chance to make new friends.

Prior to the competition, Junior Dakota Sampson tests his wind turbine. "I've worked on building the wind turbine, the binder for the test and air trajectory," Sampson said. Sampson placed fourth and earned a medal in Wind Power.

We competed

"The team came together more this year than any other year."
Football linebacker
Senior Adam Neal

"This year, we have been challenged with the concept of putting your team before yourself, and our talent is often spent on reworking routines instead of being able to create new routines."
Cheerleading Coach Lori Govert

"It feels pretty good to be the first ever two-time champ because it's never been done before, and it feels good to be recognized for something I've been working towards my whole life."
State champion wrestler
Senior Shawn Streck

"The pressure of losing the seniors last year is rough because a lot of people doubt us, but we continue to do our best, and it really pays off."
Basketball forward and center
Junior Racgene Thomas

"We had a great season. We just fell a little short and couldn't put all the pieces together as a team."
Basketball guard
Senior James Walters III

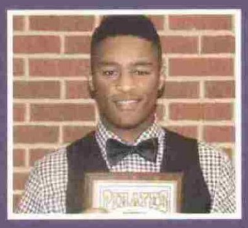
"Being with a team of such potential, to move forward makes this experience better. You can even call us a 'dream team' of sort."
Cross country runner
Junior Tyreak Thomas

"I told the boys the goal to a successful season was not about the wins and loses, but about looking back on the past games and seeing the improvement."
Boys' Soccer Coach Brian Past

Senior Erika McClinton

Standouts

Most Valuable Player
Demond Wilkins Jr.

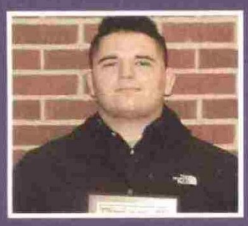


Leadership
Myles Taylor

Special Teams Player of the Year
James Walters III

Most Improved
Anthony Tucker Jr.

Skills Player of the Year
James Kirklen Jr.



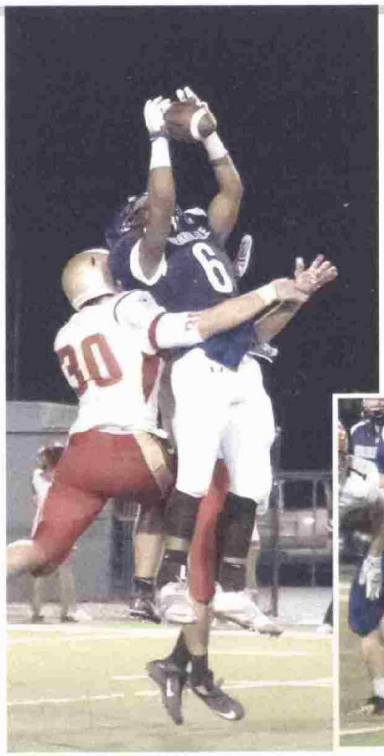
Lineman of the Year
Shawn Streck

Scoreboard

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Andrean	L	15-12
Penn	L	31-12
Crown Point	W	40-0
Portage	W	42-22
Michigan City	W	44-30
LaPorte	W	38-16
Valparaiso	L	40-14
Lake Central	W	40-17
Chesterton	L	21-18
Sectional		
Crown Point	W	22-12
Portage	W	28-21
Regional		
Penn	L	56-38

Season Record
5-4

To catch the pass from his quarterback, running back Senior Myles Taylor tries to avoid Andrean defender Senior Roman Griffin. When Taylor runs on the field, he said he feels in control of everything. "There's no time to waste when I get out there," Taylor said.



Left: In the air, wide receiver Senior James Walters jumps in front of Andrean's defender, Senior David Graham, to complete the play. Walters said that his catching, route running and blocking schemes all improved over the season. "When there's nowhere to go after I catch a ball, I can make something out of nothing on the field," Walters said. Bottom: Dodging opponents, slot receiver Senior Thomas Jones carries the ball down the field. Jones believes that he's progressed on and off the field from last year. "I try my best to make the most of it whenever I have the chance," Jones said.

Eyeing LaPorte's Junior Tyler Schoff, center Senior Shawn Streck gets ready to hike the ball to the quarterback. Streck transitioned from playing defense to playing center for the 2015 season. He said it was difficult to learn the numbers, but with the help of his teammates, things got better. "I have to make sure my snaps are perfect and get to DJ as fast as I can," Streck said.

While carrying the ball, running back Senior Isaiah Thornton attempts to avoid defenders. "I feel like I gotta go and get away from everyone, and no one can touch me," Thornton said. "I just have to run with authority." Thornton's main motivation is to get a win for the team.

New head coach combines new, old tactics

This year, the team had to adjust to getting a new coach on the field. Coach Brad Seiss took on the initiative to lead the team this year.

Coach Seiss was the head coach at Muncie Central High School in Muncie.

"I came to coach here because it was a good, traditional program, and the team was pretty strong," Coach Seiss said.

Team members said they welcomed the new coach and were open to what he wanted to bring from his coaching experiences.

Even though the boys started off their season with two losses, they planned to turn it around before the season was over. Coach Seiss and the other assistant coaches were going to help the team do that.

"He is the right coach for the job, with his background with kids and coaching," Coach Joshua Sabinas said. "He does a great job coaching the boys to want to win."

Coach Seiss wanted the team to have more team bonding. Some players mentioned that the team bonding helped them on the field. Coach Seiss also brought in more physical practices because he wanted the team to do their best throughout the year.

"The team came together more this year than any other year," outside linebacker Senior Adam Neal said.

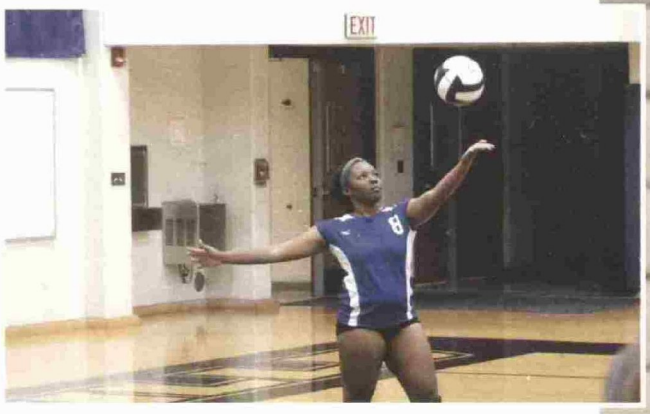
One of the team goals was to win sectionals and advance to regionals. The team won the first sectional game against Crown Point 22-12.

"We want to win sectionals, but we'll have lumps on the way, but it's possible to get it done," defensive tackle Senior Shawn Streck said.

Carl Stokes

Moses Johnson

Kameron Jackson



With eyes locked, left back Senior Ireon Smith prepares to serve. "My sister, Inesha Smith, actually encouraged me to play volleyball. Ever since then, I knew I found my passion," Smith said. She said her sister played volleyball and taught her the rules of the game. During the season, Smith had 19 aces against the opponents.

Standing up from a down-low position, all around right side Sophomore Alexis Ramos goes in for a pass. Backing Ramos up is Senior Maya Griffin. "This season has been really competitive, but we fight through it together as a team," Ramos said. She said she enjoys how well the team communicates with one another on and off the court.

Commitment, communication improve team

The season opener against Griffith High School resulted in a 3-0 win for the girls. Winning their first game of the season encouraged the Pirates to put up a tough fight.

"Once we saw the schedule for this season, we knew what to expect. The schools we compete against are extremely tough, but practicing every day had a huge impact on our results," Senior Maya Griffin said.

Commitment was key this season, which resulted in improvement over last season.

"I have been playing volleyball for seven years. I honestly do not know what I would do without it. It's a part of my life," Senior Ashley Ojo said.

Members of the team endured the ups and downs of competition, and they said they work through it together as a team.

"The most challenging aspect would have to be overcoming your doubts. The girls and I encourage each other to put everything we have in us on the floor," Senior Aubren Rosas said.

The girls have had support from teammates, parents and friends over the years.

"My friend Amber King, who is also on varsity, encouraged me to try out for volleyball," Senior Casey Harvey said. "I didn't expect to enjoy it this much, but the team communicates really well with one another."

With two more wins this season than last year, the volleyball team members said they are prepared for what lies ahead.

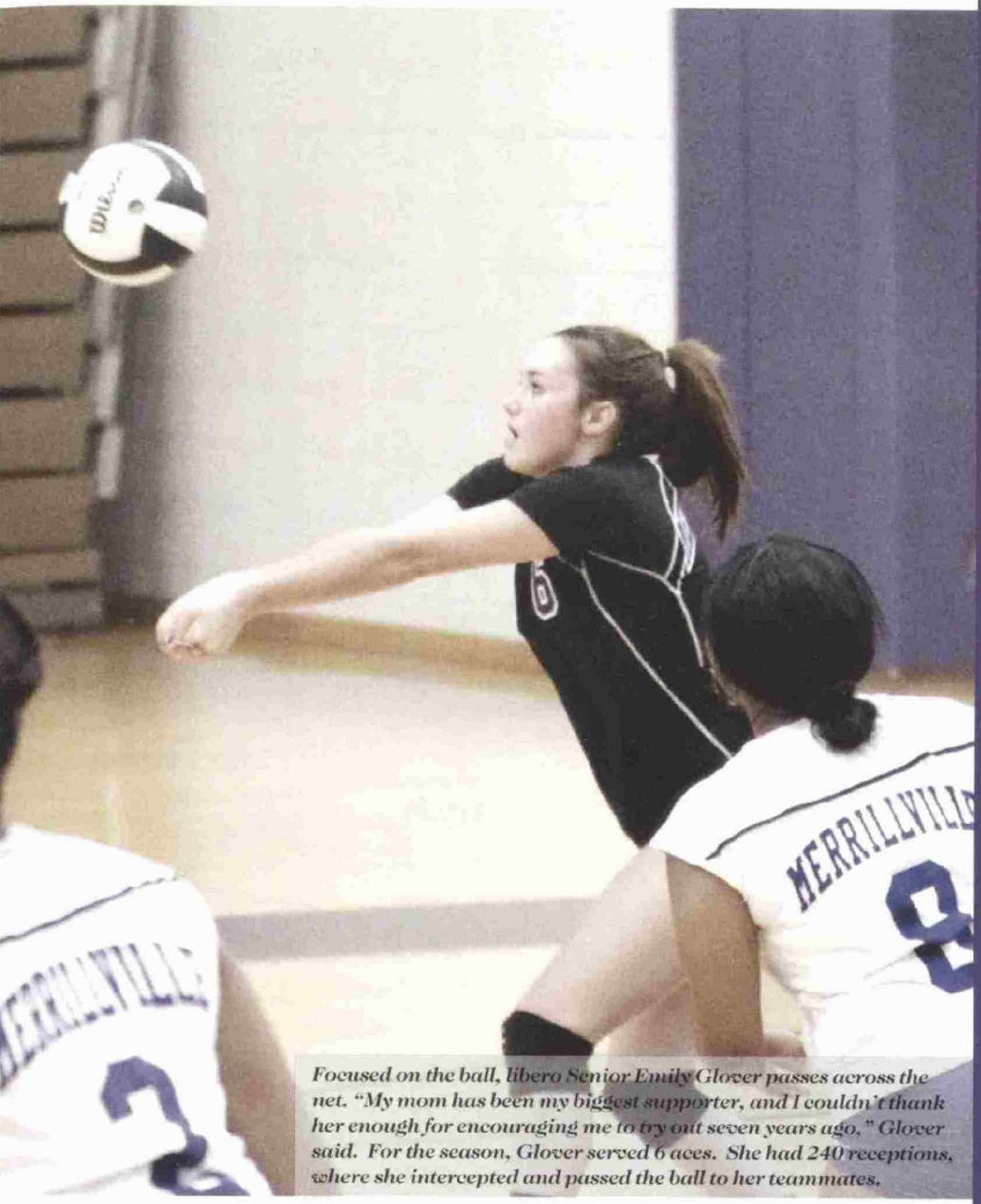
"Since this season has been extremely competitive, the girls and I formed strategies in order to win more games," Harvey said. "Even though this season has not been the best, we have improved, and that is what really matters."

Huddle

Lauren Pryle

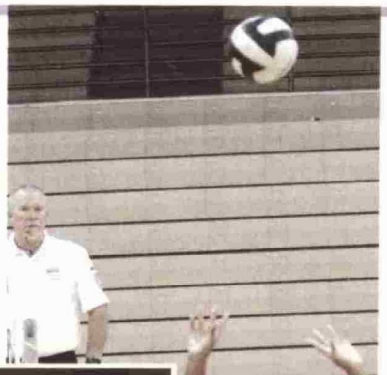
Maya Griffin

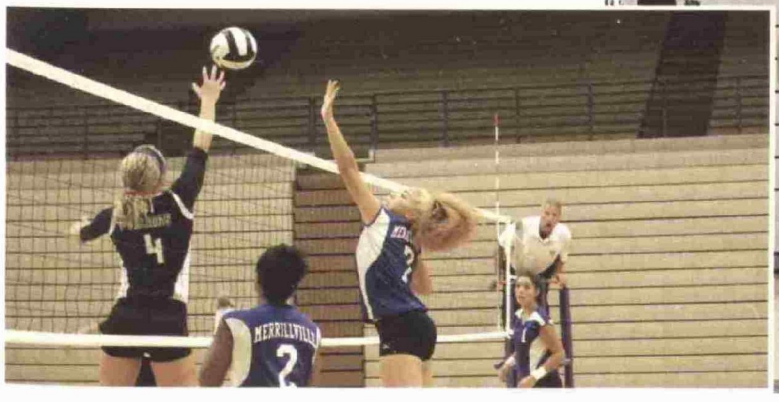
Block

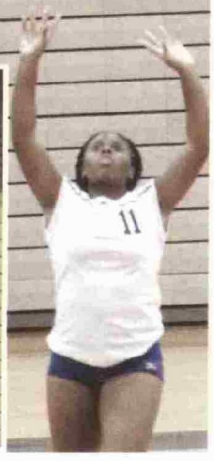


Focused on the ball, libero Senior Emily Glover passes across the net. "My mom has been my biggest supporter, and I couldn't thank her enough for encouraging me to try out seven years ago," Glover said. For the season, Glover served 6 aces. She had 240 receptions, where she intercepted and passed the ball to her teammates.

Right: With arms in the air, setter Junior Makayla Pearson sets the ball. "As a setter, I enjoy being able to control the plays," Pearson said. Even though the team plays in one of the hardest conferences in the area, Pearson said they have improved since last season. Below: To go for the block, middle front Senior Angel Munchenburg reaches above the net to stop the ball. "I enjoy the energy we have before competitions and how well we work together as a team," Munchenburg said.







Standouts

Most Valuable Player
Maya Grffin

Leadership
Makayla Pearson

Sportsmanship
Ireon Smith

Most Improved
Alexis Ramos

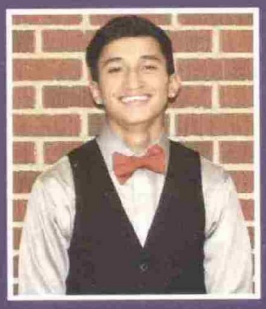
Scoreboard

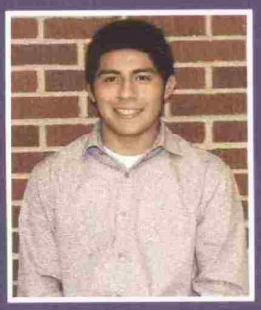
Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Griffith	W	3-0
Lowell	L	2-0
LaPorte Tourney		2-2
Andrean	L	3-1
Portage	L	3-0
Hobart	W	3-1
Michigan City	L	3-0
Valparaiso	L	3-0
Kankakee Valley Classic		1st
LaPorte	L	3-0
Lake Central	L	3-0
Chesterton	L	3-0
Washington Township	L	3-0
Crown Point	L	3-0
Wheeler	L	3-0
Portage	L	3-1
Michigan City	L	3-0
Valparaiso	L	3-0
LaPorte	L	3-0
Bishop Noll	L	3-0
Lake Central	L	3-0
Hanover Central	L	3-0
Chesterton	L	3-0
Crown Point	L	3-0
Sectional	L	3-0

Season Record
2-21

Standouts

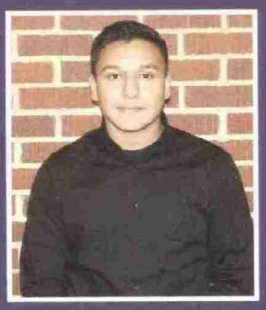
Most Valuable Player
Jorge Osoria Jr.

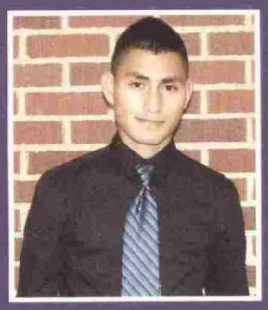




Leadership
Michael De La Peña

Sportsmanship
Victor Gutierrez



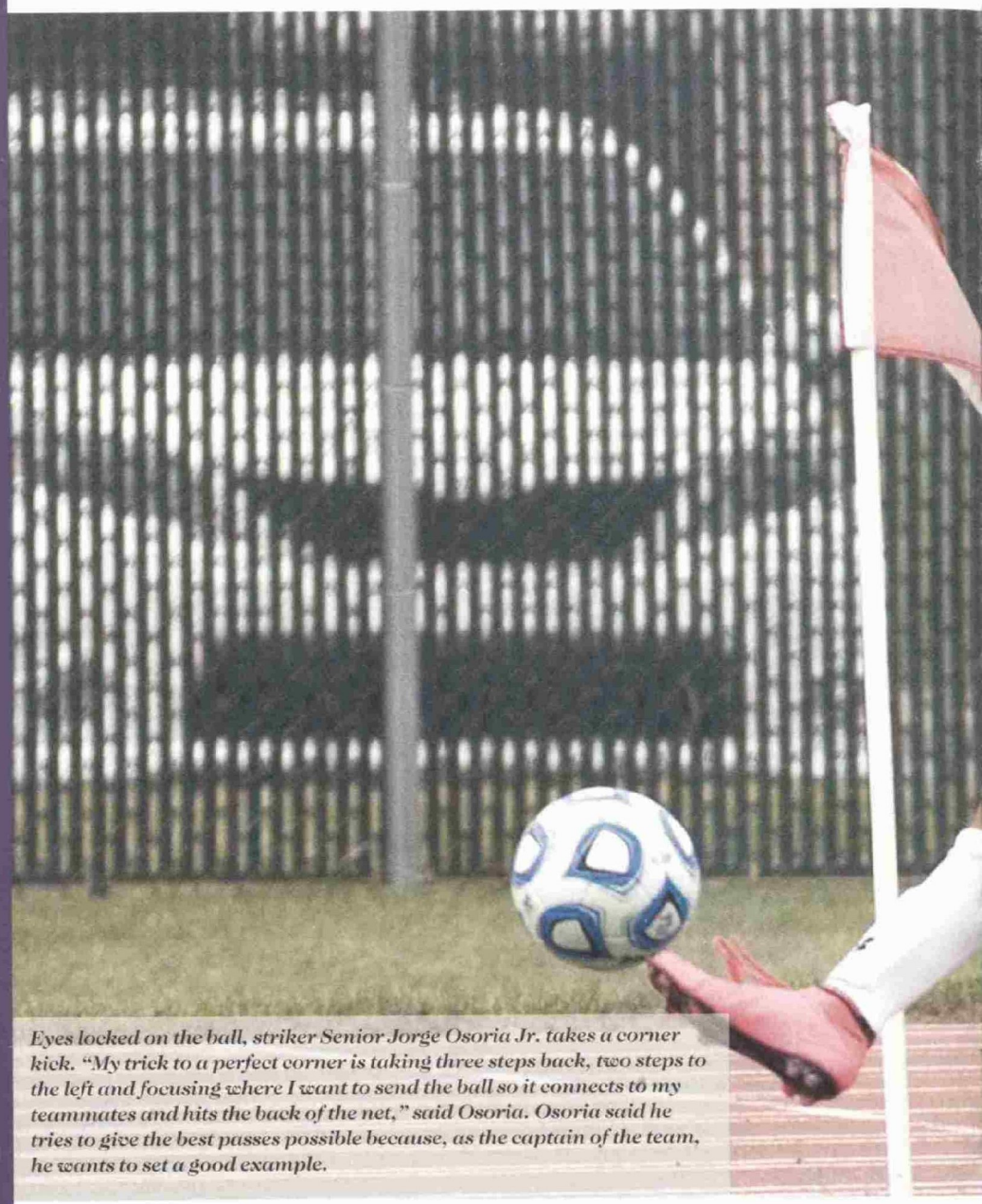


Most Improved
Daniel Barajas

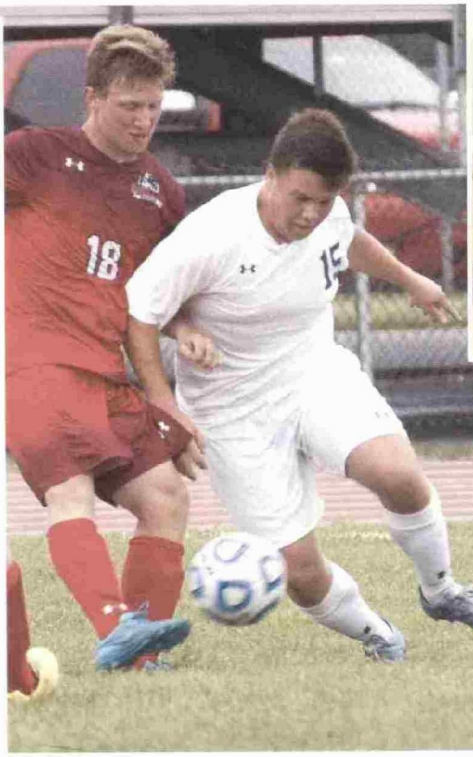
Scoreboard

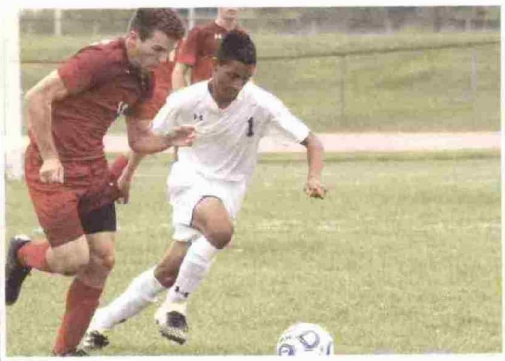
Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Portage	L	5-0
Lafayette Jefferson	L	3-2
Andrean	T	3-3
LaPorte	L	7-1
Kankakee Valley	L	5-3
Chesterton	L	9-0
Hoosier Cup	0 for 3	
Valparaiso	W	Forfeit
Munster	L	5-1
Michigan City	L	2-1
Lowell	L	3-1
Crown Point	L	10-0
West Lafayette	L	5-0
Lake Central	L	9-0
Hobart	T	2-2
Sectional	L	7-2

Season Record
1-2-15

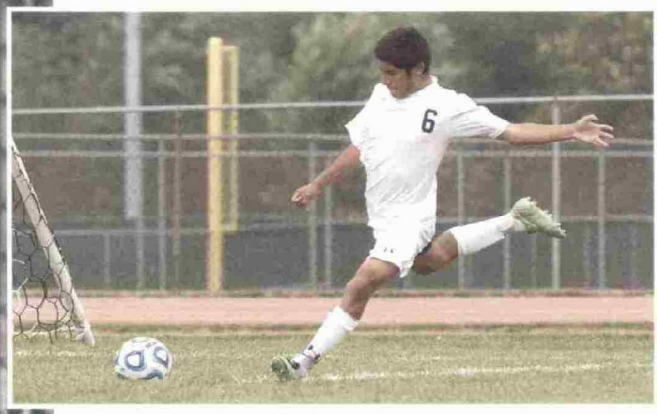


Eyes locked on the ball, striker Senior Jorge Osoria Jr. takes a corner kick. "My trick to a perfect corner is taking three steps back, two steps to the left and focusing where I want to send the ball so it connects to my teammates and hits the back of the net," said Osoria. Osoria said he tries to give the best passes possible because, as the captain of the team, he wants to set a good example.





Left: Battling Kankakee Valley's Cole Ribicki, defender Senior Brian Baran tries to regain possession of the ball. "I got stronger this year, so bodying people off was easier this year," Baran said. Baran said his main improvement this year was being more of an aggressive player. Above: Regaining possession of the ball, defender Sophomore Daniel Barajas dribbles past Kankakee Valley's Robert Poppe. "I'm really good at staying with my man. I think that's why I got moved up from JV to varsity this year," Barajas said.



Ready to kick the ball, midfielder Junior Michael De La Peña takes a goal kick. "Whenever Coach tells me to take the kick, I try my best to give my teammates the best pass possible," De La Peña said. De La Peña said he tries to pass to feet because he knows how hard it is to get a 50/50 ball in the air.

Arms wide open, goalie Sophomore Alexander Navarro waits to catch the ball. "I improved on catching the ball," Navarro said. "In the beginning, I could never get a grip on the ball, but now I know how to dive and jump for it."

Team focuses on improving after each game

Losing 16 seniors left this year's team with 3 experienced varsity players, striker Senior Jorge Osoria Jr. and midfielders Juniors Michael De La Peña and Oscar Hernandez Jr.

"Leaving us with three experienced players meant that a lot of young guys had to step up and adapt to the faster pace of varsity," Hernandez said.

One player who had to adjust to varsity and a new position was goalie Sophomore Alexander Navarro.

"I was nervous. It was my first time ever being a goalie. I felt like a deer in the headlights," Navarro said. "But I was happy because all my hard work paid off making varsity."

Another player that stepped up was midfielder Senior Adrian Rodriguez. Rodriguez transitioned from a junior varsity starter last year to a varsity starter this year.

"The skill level is higher and the pace of the game was faster," Rodriguez said. "The intensity and aggressiveness was more demanding."

Coach Brian Past said he saw the improvements the team made, and even while the scoreboard doesn't show it, Coach Past said that the boys had a successful season.

"I told the boys the goal to a successful season was not about the wins and loses, but about looking back on the past games and seeing the improvement," Coach Past said.

As the sole captain, Osoria said he was responsible for keeping up his teammates' spirits through the rough times.

"From game one to game two," Osoria said, "we looked to improve what we did wrong in game one to do better in game two."

Oscar Hernandes Jr.

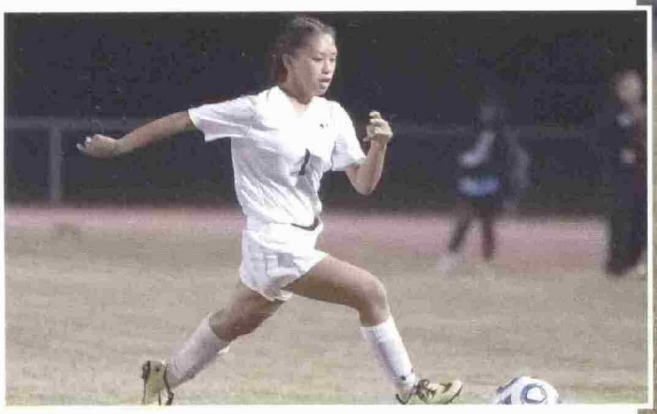
Masayoshi Nangin

Michael Croy Jr.

Dylan Burns

Jorge Gaona

After taking the ball from LaPorte's forward, right defender Senior Tirsa Mercado dribbles the ball back up the field. "I like taking the ball from attackers and making them upset," Mercado said, "We are the last line of defenders, so there is more pressure on us." Mercado said she set out to make an impact on the field with her teammates during her final year on the high school team.



To get to her teammates in the front, midfielder Sophomore Chadryne Tamo tries to pass the ball. "I love my team. I joined looking for a way to spend my time productively," Tamo said. "It was a lot of fun playing with the girls, so I plan to continue." Tamo said her goals for this season were to improve her game and get closer to her teammates.

Injuries challenge teammates to stay positive

Every team faces its own challenges, both as individuals and as a team. The girls' soccer team is no exception; but through the challenges, they find ways to stay together and pull through. In recent years, the goals for the team have always been to win the sectional. When things do not turn out as they hope, the girls encourage each other and try to maintain a positive outlook.

"This year has been better than previous years because we work well together and we want it. We have dedication," Senior DeLaney Richards said. "I think of the team as family, and that's what got us through the multiple losses."

The girls started out the season with two wins against Portage and Hanover, but they lost the next seven. Through the losses, the girls fought to stay strong and positive.

"The encouraging vibes from fellow teammates and the fans keep us motivated," goalkeeper Junior Raegene Thomas said.

"The team struggled during their season with keeping up their energy through the second half, and we lost a lot of people to injuries, but they were really good at keeping everyone encouraged and working hard," Coach Ben Daniel said.

Injured teammates sat out games and cheered from the sidelines.

"We realized soccer isn't about winning," Senior Erika McClinton said. "It's about being with your teammates."

The girls agree that this season was one of the best for the team. They said they were able to always stay positive and keep their spirits up.

"We had our ups and downs, but we ended the season on a positive note," Coach Daniel said. "This is probably my most proud season because everyone brought their A-game to every game."

Raegene Thomas

Meagan Wise

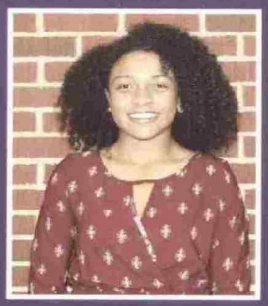
Hope Krajnak

Rebecca Knight

Alanna Heath

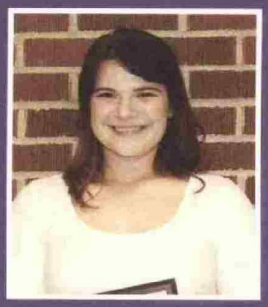
Standouts

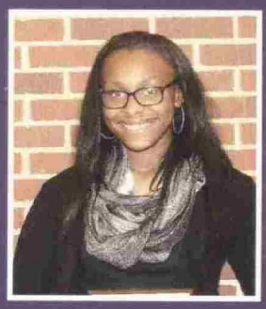
Most Valuable Player
Erika McClinton



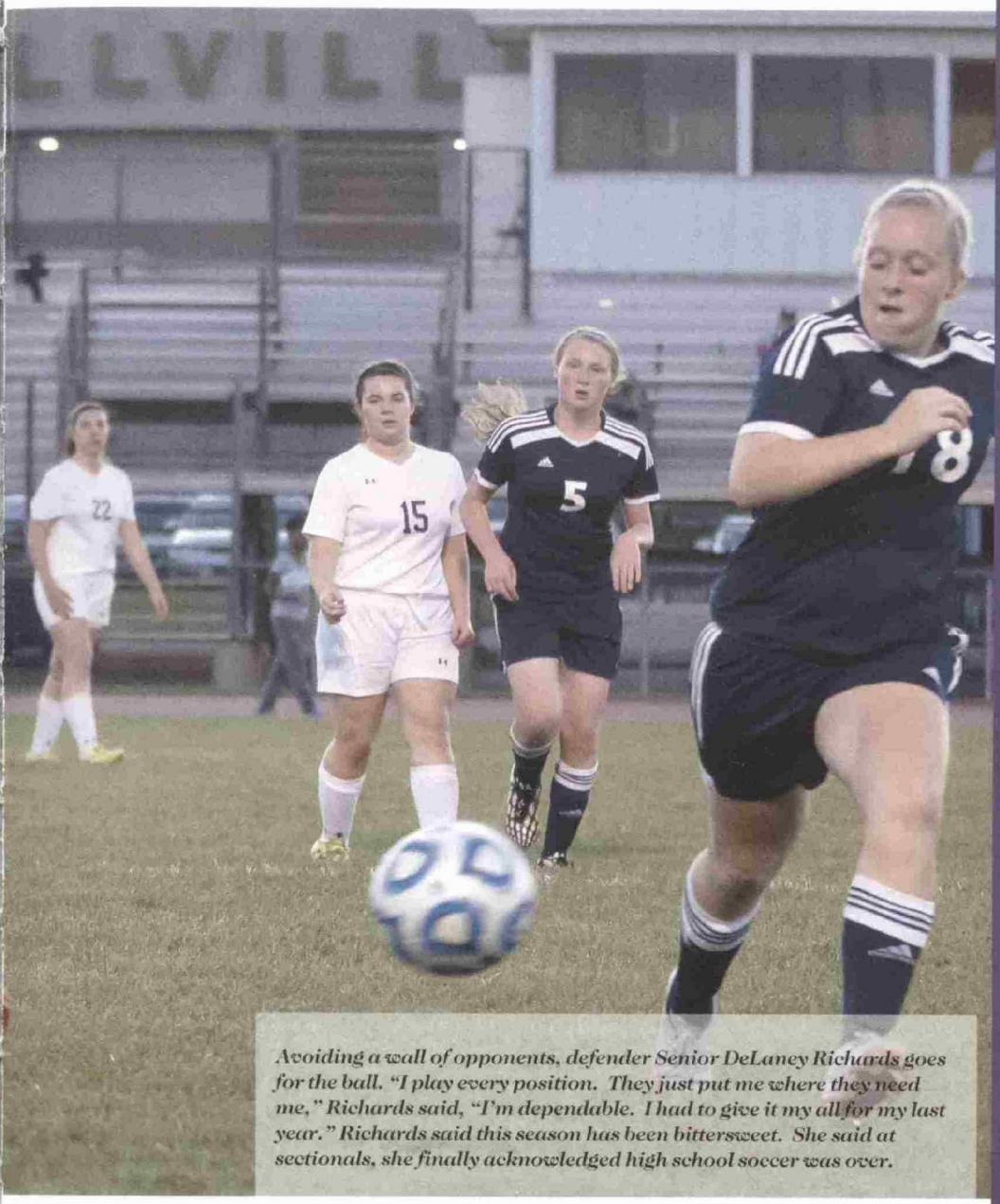
Leadership
DeLaney Richards

Sportsmanship
Hope Krajnak



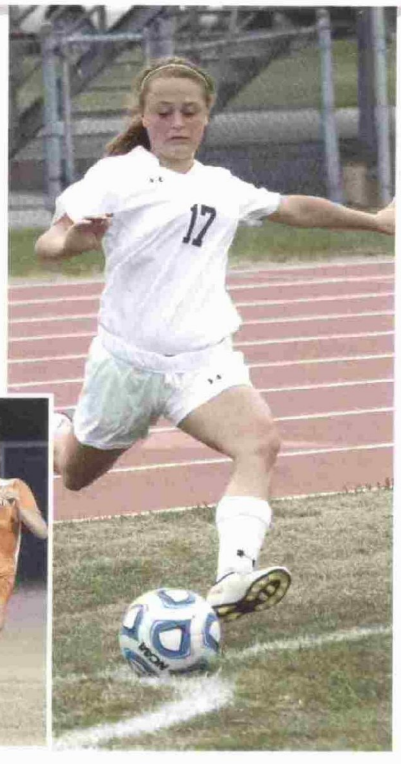


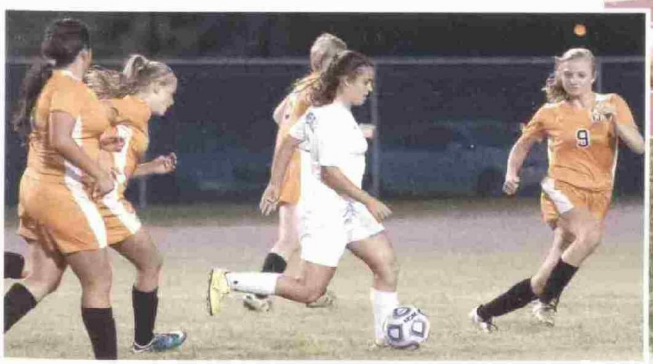
Most Improved
Raegene Thomas



Avoiding a wall of opponents, defender Senior DeLaney Richards goes for the ball. "I play every position. They just put me where they need me," Richards said, "I'm dependable. I had to give it my all for my last year." Richards said this season has been bittersweet. She said at sectionals, she finally acknowledged high school soccer was over.

Right: Quickly running toward the ball, midfielder Junior Elizabeth Croy takes a free kick. "I come from a family of soccer players, and it creates competition," Croy said. Croy plays alongside her older sister, Senior Symantha Croy. Below: Trying to score, forward Sophomore Reannah Soto attempts to get past the LaPorte opponents. "I play midfield and forward," Soto said. "I feel more involved in the game when I'm a midfielder." Soto said the season went well despite the team winning few games.





Scoreboard

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Portage	W	3-2
Hanover Central	W	6-3
LaPorte	L	3-1
Highland	L	4-2
Wheeler	L	4-0
Chesterton	L	4-0
Kankakee Valley	L	4-1
Valparaiso	L	3-0
Andrean	L	4-0
Michigan City	W	4-1
Crown Point	L	7-0
Munster	L	3-1
Lowell	L	4-0
Lake Central	L	8-0
Hobart	W	2-0
Sectional	L	2-1

Season Record
4-12

Standouts

Most Valuable Golfer
Kathryn Jurczyk

Leadership
Hunter Kaiser

Most Improved
Kiyah Walker

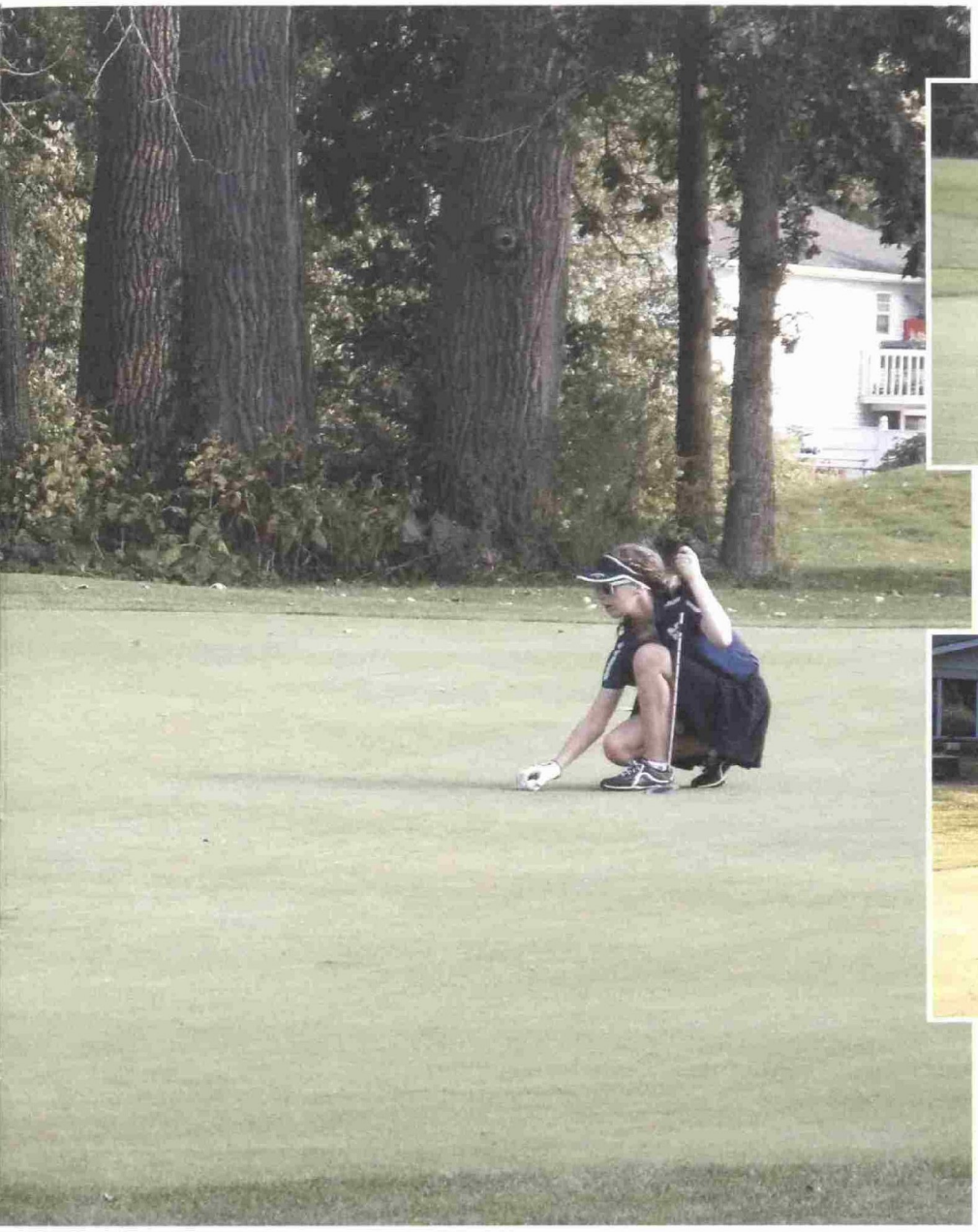
Playing No. 1, Junior Kathryn Jurczyk lines up her putt. "I hit my lowest score this season, which was 51," Jurczyk said. At the Valparaiso sectional, Jurczyk shot 129, the lowest score of her team.

Scoreboard

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Lake Central		13th
Kankakee Valley		17th
Calumet	L	252-270
Valparaiso	L	172-247
Chesterton	L	161-263
Andrean	L	198-240
Bishop Noll	L	213-240
Crown Point	L	174-261
Michigan City	L	215-263
Lake Central	L	152-247
Portage	L	199-263
DAC		8th
Sectional		6th

Season Record
0-9

With her club in the air, Senior Alexis Henney prepares to tee off. "As the season progressed, my score got lower and lower," Henney said. Henney played No. 3 and No. 4. "One time, I went to take a swing, and I was right by the sand pit," she said. "I lost my balance and rolled into the sand pit."



With her eyes on the target hole, Senior Lacy Bridgeman gets ready to putt the ball. "My goal was to improve my scores from last season, and I did," Bridgeman said. "Last year, I was scoring in the 70s and the 80s, and this year, I scored in the 50s."

After putting the ball, Senior Hunter Kaiser watches the ball go into the hole. "I play No. 2 on the varsity team," Kaiser said. Over the course of the season, Kaiser said she improved on her distance game and her putting.

Team makes season better with good memories

A small team of four players challenged the girls to compete with larger, more experienced teams. Usually, a team will have 10 to 12 players, but 4 athletes golfed for most of the season.

After losing several golfers from last year's team, the girls had to face the obstacle and make up the loss.

"Losing so many girls really did affect us," Senior Hunter Kaiser said. "We lost our No.1 varsity player, and that was dramatic to the team."

With no wins to post for their record, the girls made their season enjoyable by making memories.

"As a team this year, the girls accomplished becoming a team and learning how to work together. It was like they were a sisterhood because they became so close," Coach Patti Tubbs said.

Friends and teachers helped to convince girls to join the team.

"The reason I started playing golf is because my close friend, Kathryn Jurczyk, kept bugging me to join, so I finally joined, and now I really enjoy the sport," Senior Alexis Henney said. Henney played No. 3 and No. 4.

Many players said they joined the team because they believe golf is a laid-back sport.

"Playing a sport that is less visible than football and basketball takes more mental work, and I enjoy that," Senior Lacy Bridgeman said.

As a team, they kept their hopes and spirits high.

"The best memory from this season is seeing the girls get along as a team and seeing them dedicate their time and effort to the sport to attempt and win," Coach Tubbs said. "Even when we wouldn't win, the girls still remained positive about the game and how they played."

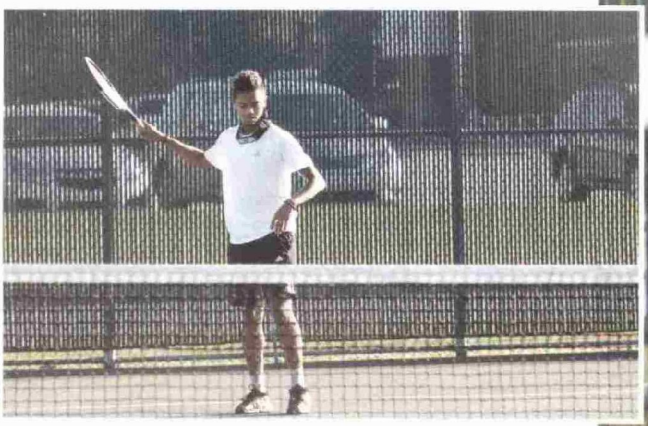
Hunter Kaiser

Alexis Henney

Kathryn Jurczyk

Lacy Bridgeman

Playing No. 2 singles, Sophomore Keith Rochefort Jr. serves the ball to his opponent. Rochefort said that to help prepare for a match, he practices the strokes and serves that give him trouble. "I work on my forehand and backhand strokes because those need improvement," Rochefort said.



With his eyes on the ball, Junior Joseph Harris II uses the forehand stroke. Harris, who also swims, said he is a competitive athlete. "Having a weakness is only a state of mind, and I don't have that state of mind," Harris said. Harris said that watching an episode of "Naruto" gives him good luck before a match.

Consistency, determination define team

The win-and-loss column does not come close to defining this year's boys' tennis team.

What defines the team is how much effort they put forth as a team to make sure everyone was ready before each match.

From the start of the season to its end, the boys played against the toughest opponents in their conference.

Head Coach James Simon gave special advice to the tennis team before they went out and played in a game.

"I tell the story of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' and how sometimes, oatmeal is all they're going to get, so make the best of it, and then I tell them to go and warm up," Coach Simon said.

Teammates would go out and hit a round together to warm themselves up.

Coach Simon said most of the players on the team started playing tennis at a younger age, so this year's team is a "bit more mature" compared to previous years.

Coach Simon often varied the line-up based on their performance.

Sophomore Marcus Miller went from being No. 3 singles to No. 1 doubles because he was so versatile that the coach could place him anywhere, and so were the other players.

"Consistency from both coaches is what kept the team together," Miller said.

Although the team had a rough year winning matches in the regular season, they captured a sectional title and advanced to regionals.

Coach Simon said he kept a positive attitude throughout the entire season, encouraging his team to just have fun and enjoy their matches.

"I told the guys to have fun and enjoy," Coach Simon said. "It makes my heart glad when they have fun out there."

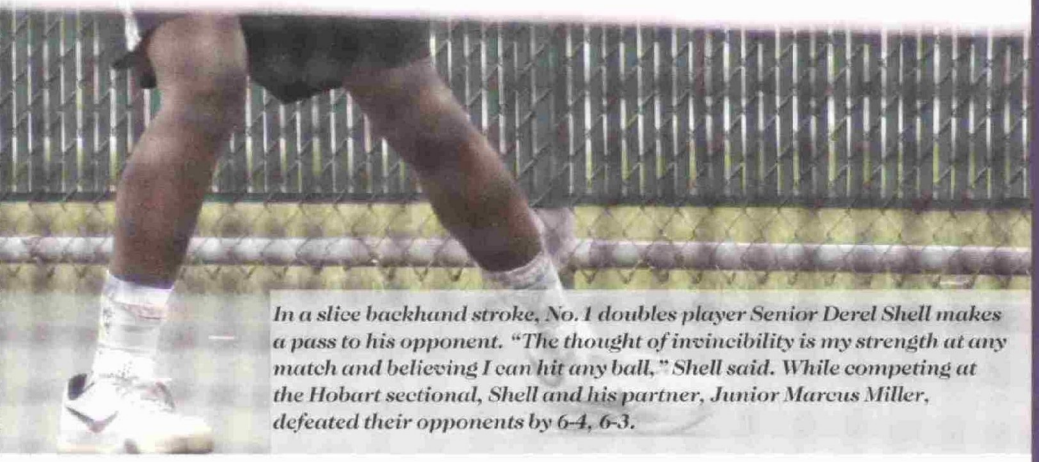
Ayron Williams

Justin Jackson

Coach James Simon

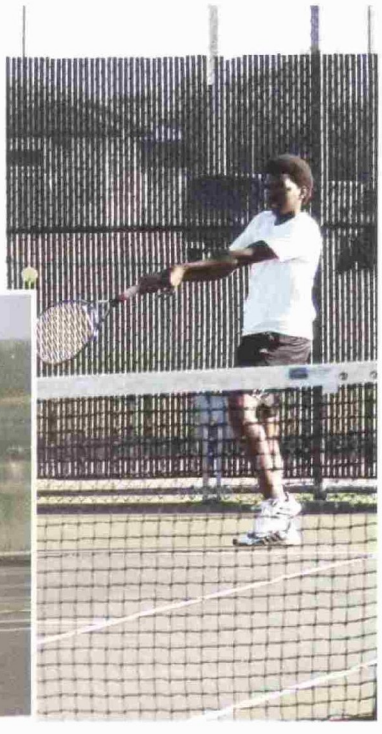
Marcus Miller

Team huddle

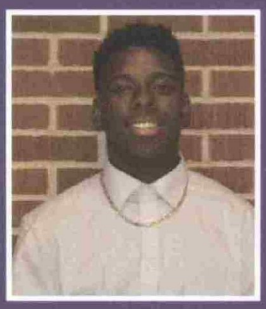


In a slice backhand stroke, No. 1 doubles player Senior Derel Shell makes a pass to his opponent. "The thought of invincibility is my strength at any match and believing I can hit any ball," Shell said. While competing at the Hobart sectional, Shell and his partner, Junior Marcus Miller, defeated their opponents by 6-4, 6-3.

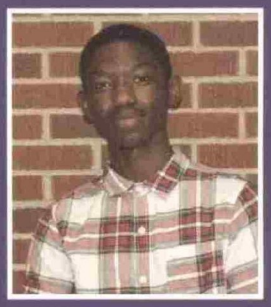
Right: Extending his racket, No. 2 doubles player Junior Deion Charleston Jr. uses the forehand stroke. "At my matches, my weakness is getting to various balls on the court," Charleston said. Charleston said he is looking forward to leading his team to many victories in the future. Bottom: While playing No. 2 doubles, Junior Terry Sabbath serves the ball to his opponent. "To defeat my opponent, I have to be consistent with my strokes and my ability to smash balls," Sabbath said.



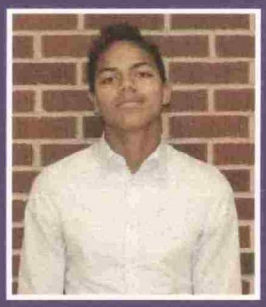
Standouts



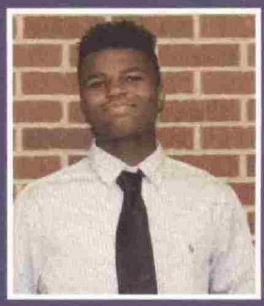
Most Valuable Player
Ayron Williams



Leadership
Derel Shell



Sportsmanship
Joseph Harris II



Most Improved
Terry Sabbath

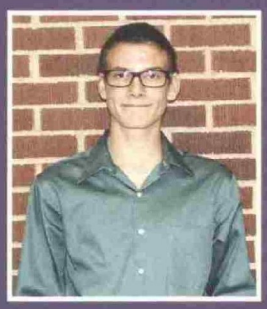
Scoreboard

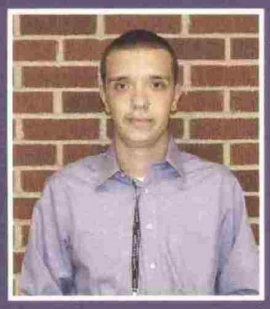
Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Kankakee Valley	W	3-2
Highland	L	5-0
Wheeler	L	3-2
Crown Point	L	5-0
LaPorte	L	3-2
Portage	L	4-1
Michigan City	L	5-0
Warsaw Invite		8th
Chesterton	L	5-0
Lake Central	L	3-2
MHS Invite		7th
Hobart	W	4-1
Valparaiso	L	5-0
Munster	L	5-0
Lowell	L	5-0
Sectional		
River Forest	W	5-0
Hobart	W	4-1
Regional		
Bishop Noll	W	5-0
Munster	L	5-0

Season Record
5-12

Standouts

Most Valuable Runner
Justin Bhe





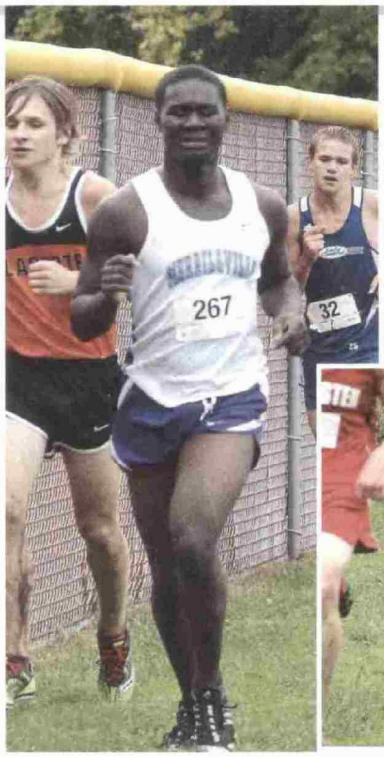
Leadership
Nicholas Doneski

Most Improved
Hayden Harmon

As he tries to keep his place, Senior Nicholas Owens is determined not to slow down. Owens said he improved by one minute since the season started. "My goal was to get out with the team while getting a good time," Owens said. Owens ran the sectional race in 18:49 and came in 35th. He set his personal record of 18:39 at the regional.

Scoreboard

Opponent	Score
Wheeler Invite	1st of 7
Lake Central Invite	5th of 6
Lowell Invite	13th of 21
New Prairie Invite	28th of 29
Highland Invitational	6th of 8
DAC	8th of 8
Sectional	5th of 11
Regional	8th of 10



Left: Keeping himself going, Junior Tyreak Thomas tries to imagine the finish line. His personal goal for the season was to get back to the potential he saw during his freshman year. "To me, cross country is mentally and physically challenging," Thomas said. "I was really close to varsity. I would have probably made it if I had kept it up." Bottom: In a race, Freshman Gabriel Ochoa makes sure he keeps up with the pack. "If you get closed in, it's a disadvantage," Ochoa said. "Advantage is encouragement from the team if you stay close."

As they turn a corner during a meet, Senior Mael Guillermin tries to make up the distance between himself and the runners in front of him. His personal record here is 18:45. Guillermin said he strives to better himself and his team. "My goal was to do the better of myself and be faster for the team," Guillermin said.

With his mind set on finishing the race, Sophomore Nathan Dye set a goal to establish a low personal record. His personal record is 21:29. He said team members try to run together in a pack to encourage each other. "It`s an advantage," Dye said. "My teammates keep me in my right mindset during the race."

Boys set personal records, advance one to semi-state

As the season progressed, the boys' cross country team focused on coming together and improving individually and as a team.

Despite the challenges the team faced, they still managed to work together. For some of the members, this was the highlight of their season.

"Being with a team of such potential, to move forward makes this experience better," Junior Tyreak Thomas said. "You can even call us a 'dream team' of sort."

Season highlights included a first-place finish in August at the Wheeler Invite and fifth at the Lake Central Invite.

At the Crown Point Sectional, the team came in fifth and advanced to the regional, where they came in eighth. Sophomore Justin Bhe came in 29th and advanced to the semi-state.

"I was disappointed that only I advanced," Bhe said. "I felt like a couple of my teammates deserved to get out and should have gotten out."

At the regional, two runners set personal records. Sophomore Hayden Harmon placed 48th with a final time of 18:12 and Freshman Gabriel Ochoa placed 51st with a final time of 18:27.

"I was honored to receive the ribbon just because it was my goal," Bhe said "I did exactly how I wanted to do at sectionals."

The team was split on whether or not it's an advantage or disadvantage to run in the pack.

"You get more motivation from the team," Thomas said. "No one falls behind, and we`ll do it all over again if we don`t finish together."

Most of the team said success depends on team effort. Some feel you can`t advance easily that way.

"If you run at a similar speed, it brings you up," Bhe said. "It`s a real disadvantage if you have to slow down to keep with everyone, and it`s impossible to advance that way."

Justin Bhe

Hayden Harmon

Warming up

Alec Edwards

Nicholas Doneski

Warming up with the other teams, Senior Eryn Jenkins gets herself ready for the race. "I love the challenge of it all. It's hard every day, but you gotta get over it," Jenkins said. Jenkins has been running since her freshman year.

In her second year, Sophomore Brenda McNeal competes in the Lowell Invitational. "I enjoy how it feels afterwards and the accomplishments I make," McNeal said. At the Crown Point Regional, where she ran her career best at 20:28, McNeal placed 26th and advanced to the semi-state at New Prairie.

Mix of wins and losses for season; three advance to semi-state

The girls' cross country team endured an up-and-down season, ending with a fifth-place finish at sectionals and sending three runners to the semi-state.

In August, they placed first of 5 at the Wheeler Invite and first of 16 at the Highland Invite a month later.

The rest of the season was a mix of wins and losses.

The girls said they learned to work together and push each other to make sure everyone ran her best.

"We learned that we need to stop competing with each other and win together," Sophomore Brenda McNeal said.

"We have our moments, but they're my cross country sisters, and we have to work with each other to improve," Sophomore Prysma Valdivia said.

Some of the girls have a hand signal for when they see someone falling behind in the race, and that sign lets others know they need help.

Coaches Patrick Coffey and Michael Hoffman work with the runners.

"It's not harder coaching the girls. It's just different. I'll never understand them," Coach Hoffman said.

All of the girls have agreed that Coach Hoffman can be brutally honest, but that makes them better runners.

"Hoffman is honest in letting us know that he believes in us and that we can improve, which gives us a boost," Senior Eryn Jenkins said.

Prior to a meet, the girls say that they pray together and make sure they give compliments and encourage each other. Often, graduates return to encourage the team at their meets.

"The seniors come back to make sure that the girls are motivated," Coach Hoffman said.

After the team placed fifth at the Crown Point Sectional, the team advanced to the regional. McNeal and Sophomores Diamond Taher and Natalie Dye advanced to the New Prairie semi-state.

Destiny Hernandez

Marisol Ramirez

The meet begins

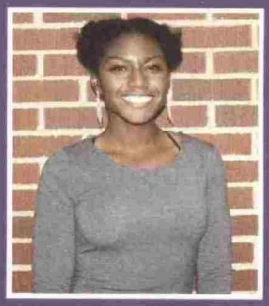
Natalie Dye

Team huddle

Standouts

Most Valuable Runner
Brenda McNeal

Leadership
Eryn Jenkins



Sportsmanship
Diamond Taher

Most Improved
Prysma Valdivia

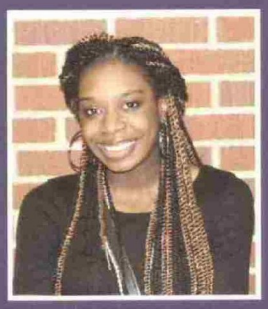
Trying to keep a good pace, Senior Kiara Key stays focused on staying in front. Key said she joined because, "I'm good at it, it helps me relieve stress and it keeps me in shape." Key ended with a time of 25:41 at the Crown Point Sectional.

Right: As she advances closer to the finish line, Sophomore Prysma Valdivia maintains her pace. "After a bad day, I run and feel better. It's a stress reliever," Valdivia said. Before every meet, Valdivia said the team prays together to do their best. She achieved a personal record at the invite. The girls' were champions at the Highland Invite. Valdivia ended with a time of 21:29. Bottom: A second-year cross country and track runner, Sophomore Diamond Taher tries to keep ahead of the pack during the Lowell meet. "The things I enjoy most about running are my achievements," Taher said. Taher is one of three girls to advance to the semi-state. In the regional, Taher placed 25th, running the course in 20:32 minutes.

Scoreboard

Opponent	Score
Wheeler Invite	1st of 5
Lake Central Invite	5th of 6
New Prairie Invite	15th of 24
Highland Invitational	1st of 16
DAC	7th of 8
Sectional	5th of 9
Regional	8th of 10

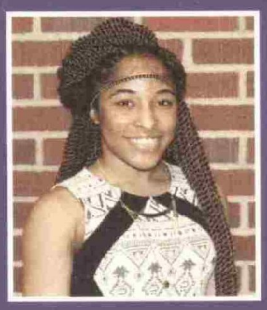
Standouts



Most Valuable Cheerleader
Dominique Carpenter

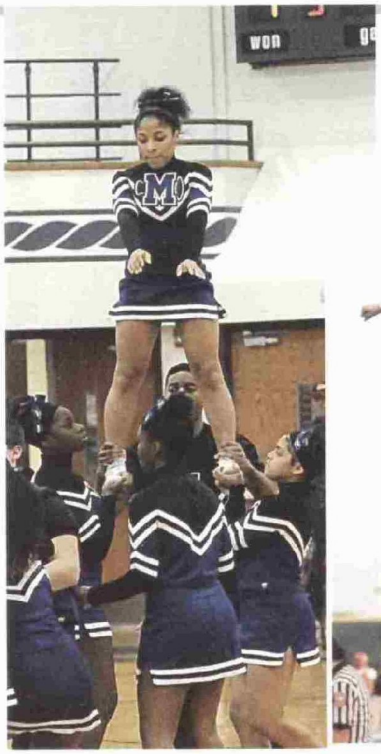
Leadership
Shon' Monique Mabone

Sportsmanship
Kaylin Jones



Most Improved
Aliyah McLain

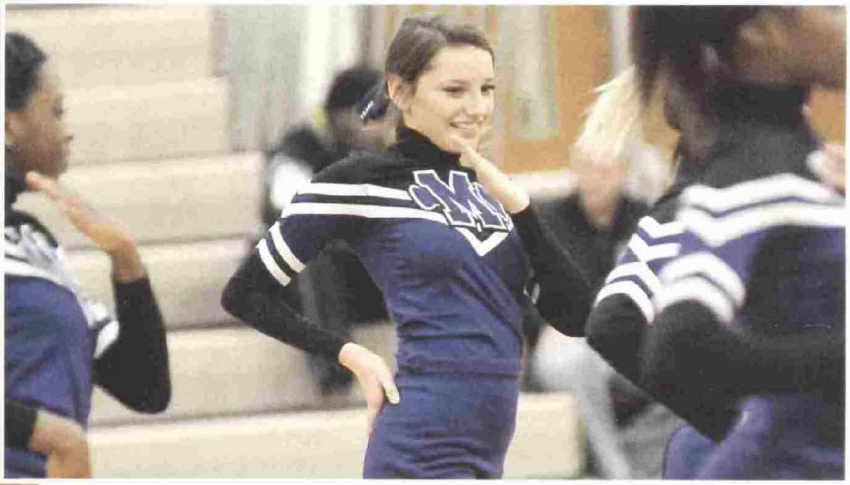
In a high "V", Senior Shon' Monique Mabone cheers with her teammates Senior Tiffany Holst, Freshman Aliyah McLain, Sophomore Diamond Morris, Senior Dominique Carpenter and Sophomores Kaylin Jones and Taylor Ballard during the school song. "I hate that this was my last sport cheering at the high school," Mabone said. "I'm going to miss my babies on the team so much." Her goals, Mabone said, are to continue with the National Cheerleaders Association and to coach cheerleading after high school.



Eyeing the stunt, Freshman Aliyah McLain hits the half during a home basketball game. "I have been cheering since the fourth grade, but this is my first year cheering with the high school," McLain said. Although this season has been challenging for her, McLain said her friends have made it more enjoyable.

Arms outstretched with one leg extended, Sophomore Tori Holst forms an arabesque. "The most exciting part of cheerleading for me is dancing during basketball season," Holst said. Holst said that during basketball season, she enjoys seeing the crowd become fired up.

Jumping into the air, Freshman Michonn Cherry and Senior Dominique Carpenter perform a back tuck. "Learning all the routines and memorizing them before the games is the most challenging aspect for me," Cherry said. Cherry said that although there are challenges when it comes to cheerleading, all their practices pay off during the season.



Twisting into a motion, Sophomore Taylor Ballard dances with the squad during a basketball game timeout. "My mom was the one who encouraged me to try out for a sport, and cheerleading seemed the most interesting to me," Ballard said. Ballard said she has been in cheerleading for 12 years.

Hard work, determination define success for cheerleaders

Many people are deceived by thinking that cheerleading is simple.

The young women on the Cheer Squad said a lot of hard work and determination are needed in order to succeed.

With many new faces on the team this year, Coach Lori Govert said she worked with cheerleaders before games to perfect routines.

"On game night, we normally practice for 90 minutes, reworking routines, refining motion technique for cheers and dances and refining stunts to make sure everyone understands the counts for successful routines," Coach Govert said.

Cheerleaders with previous experience in tumbling and stunting joined the team, which improved the team as a whole.

"I have been cheering for 13 years now and have improved on my tumbling techniques," Junior Samantha Foster said.

Though the girls have improved this season, they are still faced with challenges.

"The girls could improve on being more focused in order to become physically stronger because physical strength makes stunts easier to obtain and helps us avoid injuries," Coach Govert said.

Junior Autumn Carrero agreed. "Staying focused on our routines is challenging, but this year, the team has improved on their mentality, which has resulted in less injuries."

Every summer, the girls attend National Cheerleaders Association camp to learn new cheers and stunts.

"At camp, we learn many new routines and become closer as a team, which helps us communicate with one another during season," Freshman Bailey Rapavi said.

The girls said this season has progressed, but work remains.

"This year, we have been challenged with the concept of putting your team before yourself," Coach Govert said, "and our talent is often spent on reworking routines instead of being able to create new routines."

Bailey Rapavi

Autumn Carrero

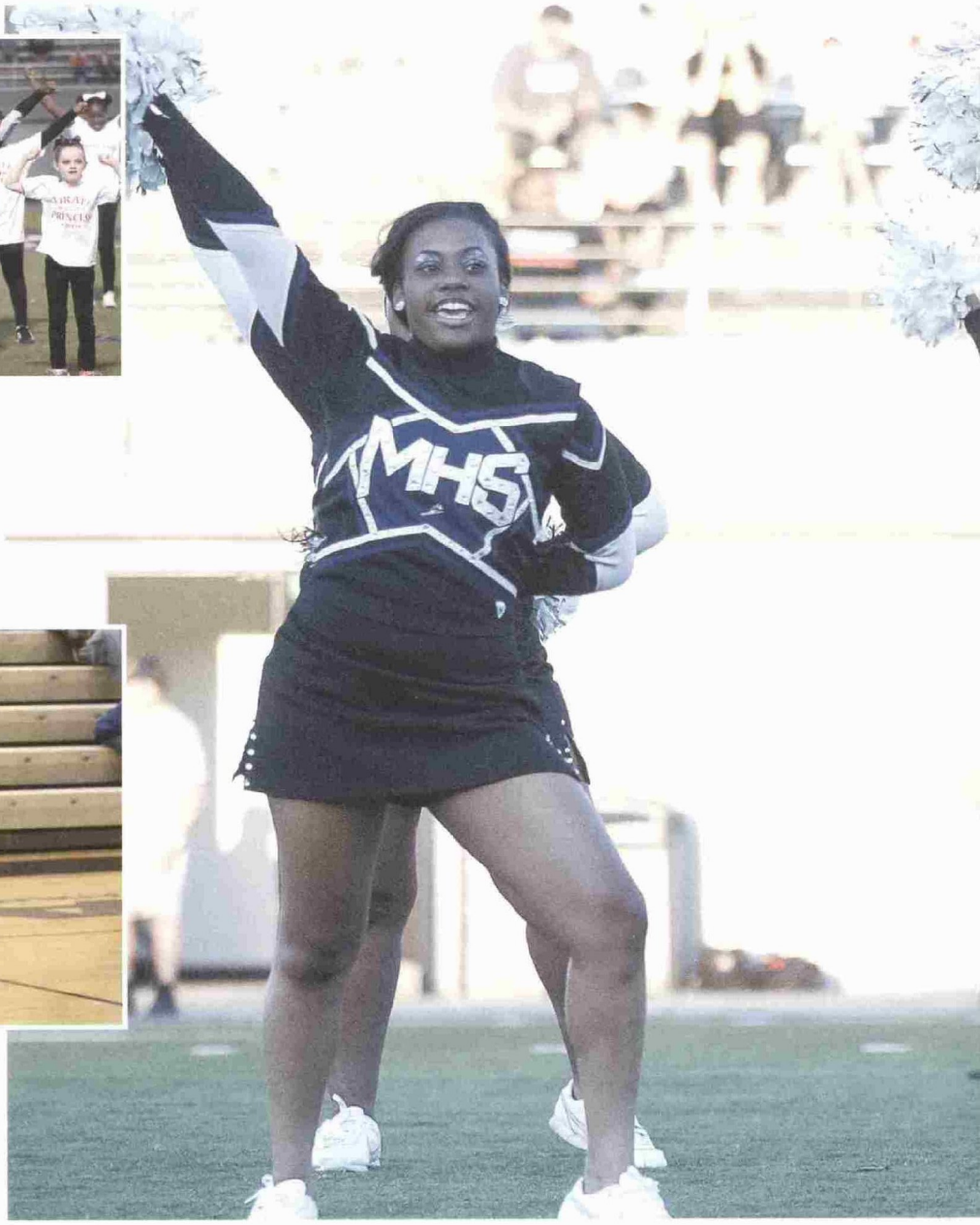
Carlos Mejia

Alysa Lucero

Diamond Morris

On the football field, Junior Madison Blackwell does a high "V" with the young Pirate Princesses. Eighty young girls attended a dance camp earlier in the day and learned the routine to "Let It Go" from the Disney movie, "Frozen." The Dance Team performed with the youngsters at halftime of the football game.

On the basketball court, Sophomore Alyssa Hunt and Senior Dominique Bland move with the team into a column. "When I dance, it takes away all the anger and pain," Hunt said. "It blocks everything out." Hunt said that her favorite dance move is a leg hold.



Dance Team returns to old style

When Mrs. Melissa Sickinger returned to coach the Dance Team, she incorporated a traditional pom-style dance with some jazz techniques.

Junior Madison Blackwell said that the techniques showcase a different set of skills.

The girls said that the routines are easier yet harder to comprehend. The team's skill level improved greatly as the girls worked on choreography to better understand it.

"Some girls don't have hip-hop in them, and poms is a lot easier to learn," Captain Senior Katherine Williamson said.

During practice, they worked on technique discipline, movement control and a consistent style, Mrs. Sickinger said.

Team members said Mrs. Sickinger's strict attention to detail made them focus more on how the dance looks on the floor.

"We work out more and the dances are challenging but fun," Junior Ashlei Hunt said. "It's more motions, more techniques and better visuals."

The bond between the girls is a big factor in how well they perform. Less confrontation results in better outcomes.

To bring the girls closer together, each underclassman was paired with an upperclassman to help guide them.

"Everyone is friends with everyone, which never happens," Senior Jazzmyne Taylor said.

Senior Dominique Bland said she joined the dance team because she loves being able to express herself through the dances and routines.

"The Dance Team is different than other clubs because it allows people to express their hidden talents," Bland said. "The whole thing has been a positive experience."

Katherine Williamson

Ashlei Hunt

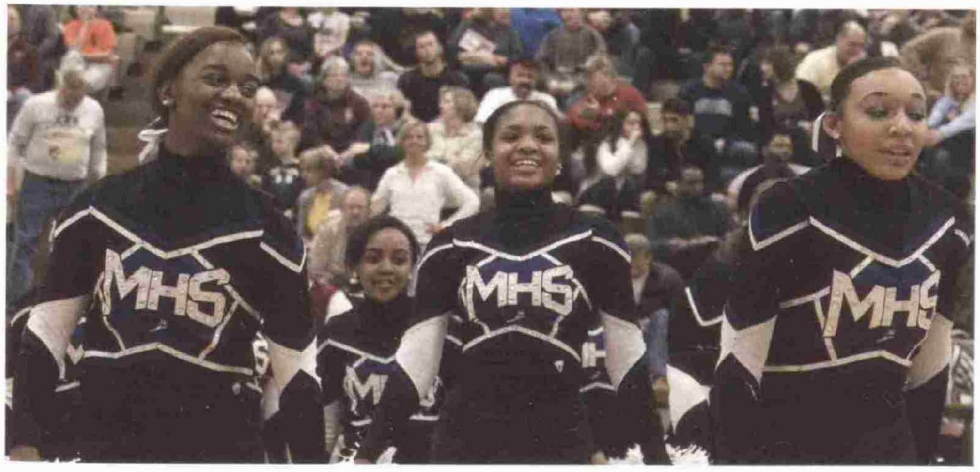
Dominique Bland

Ke'lecia Junigan

Imani Butts

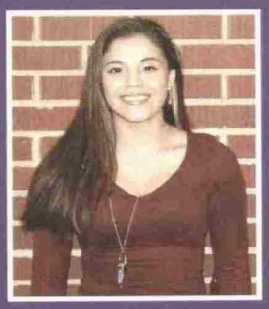
A dancer since her freshman year, Senior Armen Sims performs the halftime routine on the football field with Senior Allyssa Walls, Sophomores Alyssa Hunt and Miranda Cuozzo and Freshman Imani Butts. "The thing I love the most about dancing is all the attention and the spotlight I get," Sims said. The Dance Team performs during halftime at all home football and basketball games.

Right: With a passion for dance, Freshman Clarke Halliburton performs the hip-hop dance routine at halftime. Halliburton has been dancing since she was seven years old. "The best part of dancing is that you get to express yourself," Halliburton said. "We are always working together and helping each other out." Bottom: During halftime at a home basketball game, Juniors Mi-Chae' Smith and Madison Blackwell and Sophomore Alyssa Hunt prepare to perform. "The girls on the team motivate me the most," Smith said. Basketball season is her favorite, she said, because she feels like more people get to see her dance.



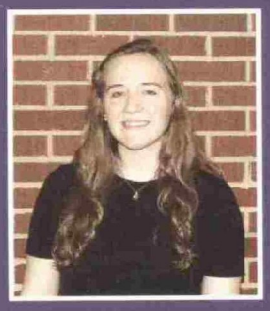
Standouts

Most Valuable Gymnast
Heather Osorio



Leadership
Hunter Kaiser

Sportsmanship
Bethany Rochefort



Most Improved
Kaniyah Pharms

Scoreboard

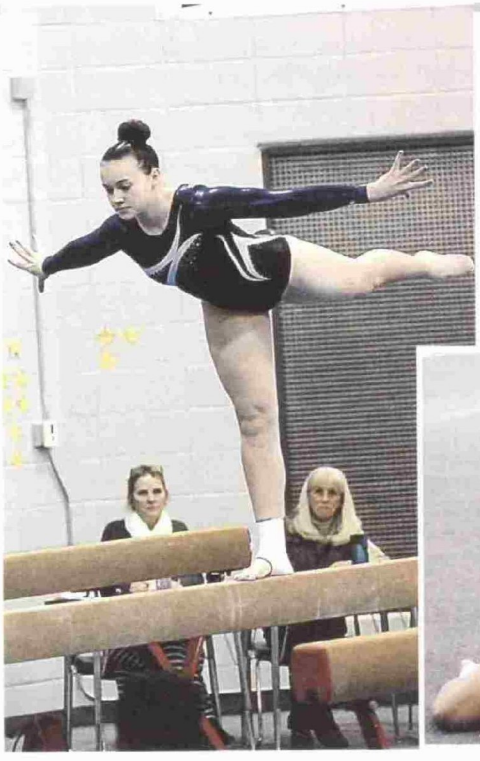
Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Michigan City	W	105.65-104.825
Hobart	W	105.80-95.25
Lowell	W	105.65-89.85
Lake Central	W	107.40-96.525
LaPorte	W	106.30-95.025
Portage	W	108.725-108.125
Crown Point	L	110.625-107.35
Chesterton	L	109.10-107.025
Valparaiso	L	113.35-104.575

Invites

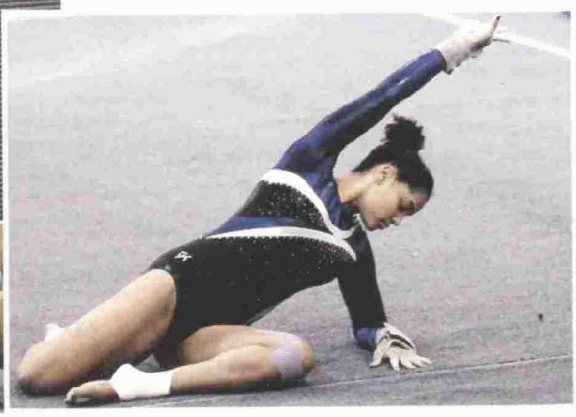
Concordia Classic	4th of 11
Pirate Pride	2nd of 8
DAC	5th of 8

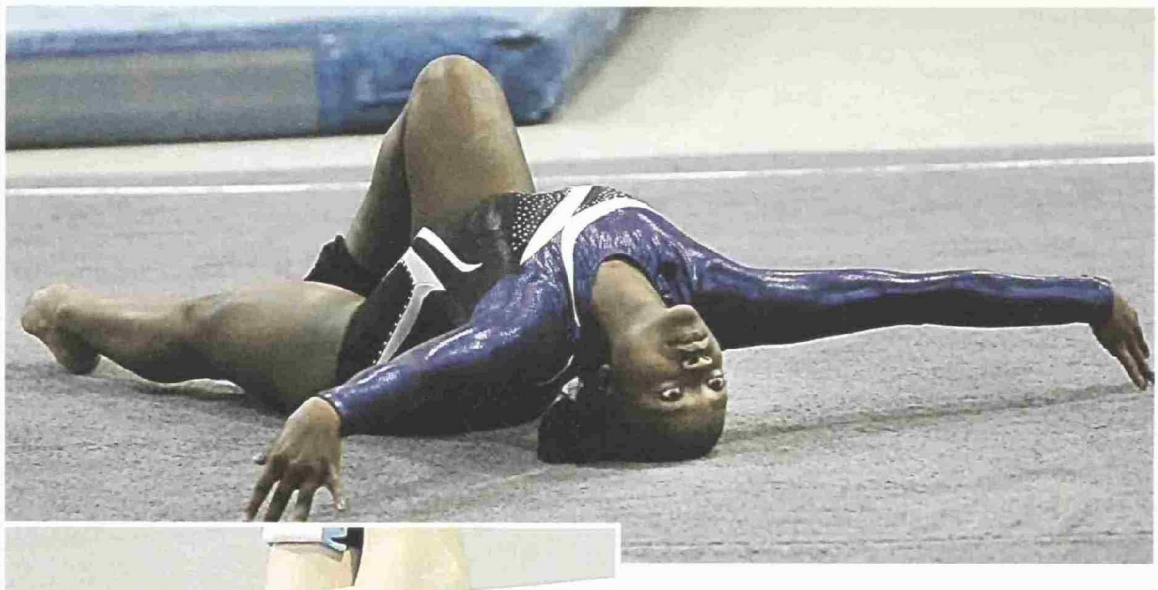
Season Record
6-3

At the end of her floor routine, Junior Heather Osorio finishes with a pose. This routine was also the routine she performed at the state championship. "She performs with grace and confidence," Coach Diane Roberts said. "She is known for her unique skills and style." She advanced to state for the third time and placed 14th with a score a 9.45 on the bars. Osorio set a school record on the uneven bars with a score of 9.825.



Left: On the beam, Senior Hunter Kaiser performs a scale to prepare for a Swedish Fall. "I wanted to lead my team and win as many meets as possible," Kaiser said. Kaiser broke her personal bests in all the events: a 8.625 on vault, a 6.9 on bars, a 8.125 on the beam, a 8.875 on floor and a 31.85 in the all-around. Below: With her arm in the air, Sophomore Cryst'n Morgan ends her routine. "Her floor exercise routine captured the attention of the audience," Coach Diane Roberts said, "and was a favorite among gymnastic judges."





Above: Finishing her floor routine, Freshman Jadyn Lawson depicts a china doll that came to life. "I like being with my team and working hard," Lawson said. "I also like away meets because of the bus rides and we just have a good time together as a team." Lawson had a personal best on vault with a score of 9.0. Left: In an under swing, Senior Bethany Rochefort performs on the uneven bars. "Because of my injury in 2015, I couldn't do some skills but I tried to not let it affect me," Rochefort said. "Despite a serious injury in 2015, Bethany returned to gymnastics with confidence and determination," Coach Diane Roberts said.

The bond among the team stays strong

All of the gymnasts have been stunting together for more than five years each, so they have developed a great bond with each other.

"My sport itself is great and I never wanted to leave since the day I started," Senior Hunter Kaiser said.

There were a lot of different reasons why some of these girls started and how they became so fond of the sport.

"My sister did it and after seeing her do it I fell in love," Senior Bethany Rochefort said. "It's also a great stress reliever."

The coaches have been with these girls for half of their lives so far and this makes their relationships more special because they really trust and rely on their coaches for honest advice.

"Both coaches are like family to me now, but when you do something wrong, they instantly tell you so that you can go out and work on it for the better," Sophomore Amara Hester said.

Assistant Coach Nick Roberts said that the bond of the team has not been as great in a very long time.

"It's so unreal that this was my last season. My bond with the girls and my coaches was so strong that I'm definitely going to keep in contact with them," Rochefort said. "They raised me up since I was about four, so I couldn't leave them alone."

Coach Roberts said he's proud of the two seniors he has to lose this year, and since he's been coaching them for the longest, he's very sad that they have to go.

"I'm very proud of both of my seniors for all they've achieved this year, but all of the chemistry is all thanks to them, they grew the team's bond so close," Coach Roberts said. "I just hope the eighth graders coming in are as great as the team has been so far."

Cheyenne Roberts

Kylah Nicholson

Jasmyne Magee

Kaniyah Pharms

Bethany Rochefort

Eyes on the basket, point guard Senior Marcel Cherry shoots a layup. "The team got more mature and more people saw how serious we were," Cherry said. "The coaches are also harder on us this year and their expectations are higher." He said getting his teammates involved and getting to the basket only makes him stronger.

Driving to the basket, small forward Junior Mitchell Ward Jr. avoids his opponent. "Everybody wants to see us fall and lose, but they can't stop us," Ward said. He said the team was tired of losing the previous year, so they were more positive and focused to win more games. Ward had the best three-point field goal percentage on the team.

Team chemistry helps team improve record

The boys started preparing for their season during the summer in their off-season.

"The off-season got me a lot better, and it got me so I could play varsity this year because I improved my skills a lot more this year," Junior Mileek McMillan said.

During the season, the boys' hard work paid off with their 22-1 record during the season. Team members said they have great chemistry on and off the court.

"We all have been playing together since sophomore year, so we talk all of the time and spend time outside of practice talking about the games and how we can make improvements," Senior Charles Jacobs said.

While Coach T. J. Lux has his own ways of preparing the team for games, the players said they have their own personal ways to prepare themselves.

"I pray before the game and listen to music to get my head straight and focus on being a killer on the court," McMillan said.

"I mainly work on my ball handling so I can better myself on the court," Sophomore Johnny Bernard said.

One of the season highlights was Senior Demond Wilkins Jr.'s nomination for the McDonald's All-American Game.

"It's an honor because not many people get nominated, let alone picked for the game, and I don't care that I didn't get picked for the game," Wilkins said. "It just felt good to be noticed by that committee."

The team ended the regular season with one loss, ranking them second in the state. The players fell short of their goal when they failed to advance past sectionals.

"We had a great season," Senior James Walters III said. "We just fell a little short and couldn't put all the pieces together as a team."

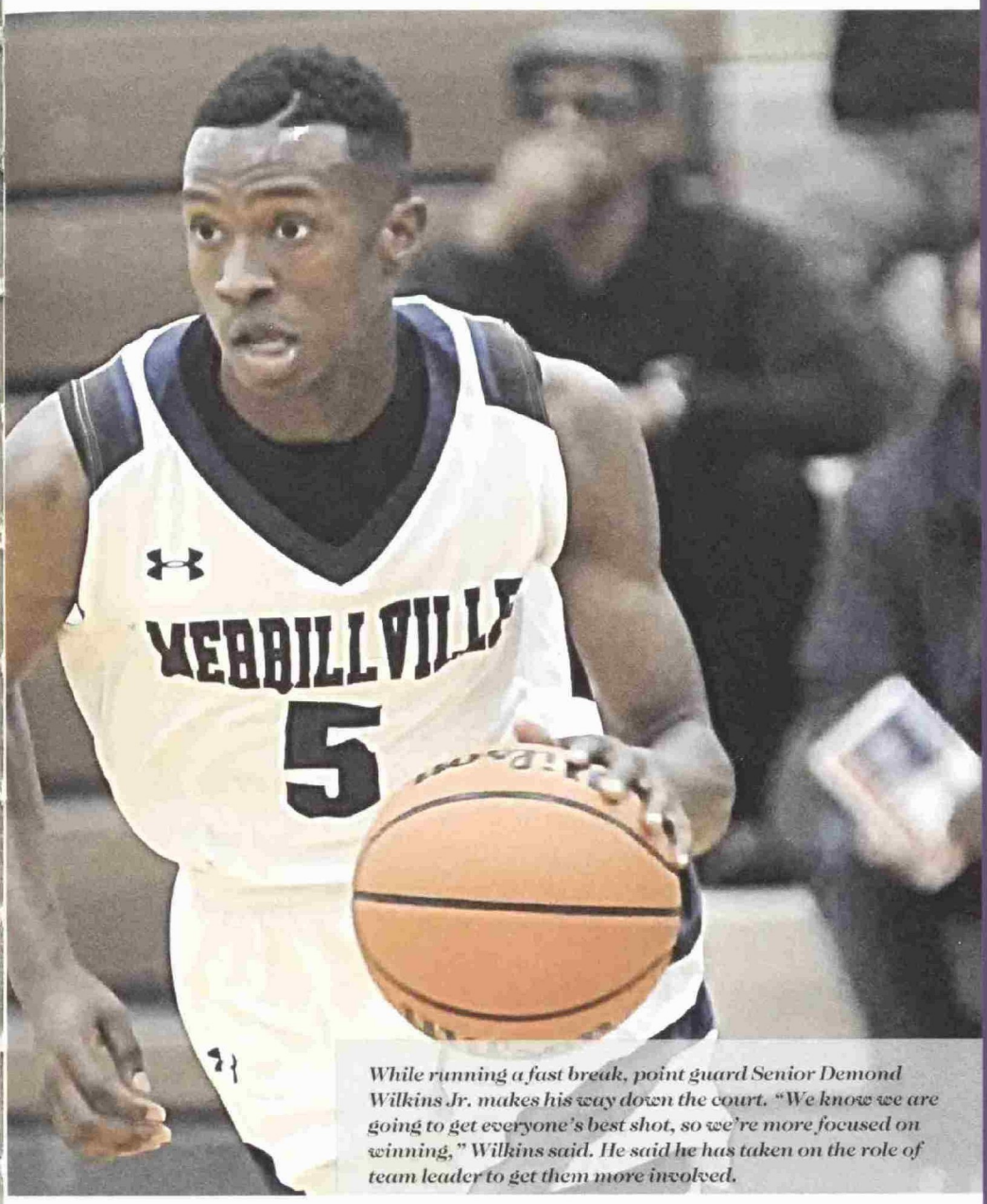
Kameron Jackson

Syrrus Nunn

James Kirklen Jr.

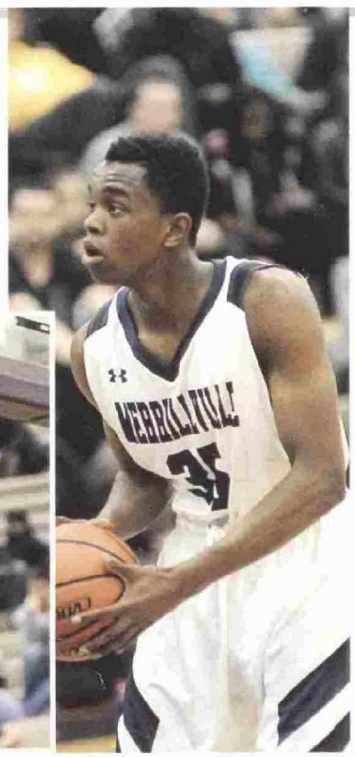
Robert Sanders Jr.

Johnny Bernard

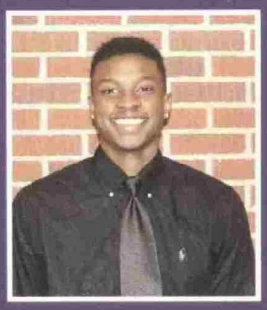


While running a fast break, point guard Senior Demond Wilkins Jr. makes his way down the court. "We know we are going to get everyone's best shot, so we're more focused on winning," Wilkins said. He said he has taken on the role of team leader to get them more involved.

Bottom: To attack the basket, forward Junior Cameron Wilbon finishes with a tip dunk. "The team definitely finished more games this year than last," Wilbon said. "We used to let teams come back and win." Right: On the free throw line, small forward Senior Jarius Stevens prepares to shoot the ball. "My main focus is getting the ball in the hole and to be leader by example," Stevens said. His free throw percentage is 79 percent.

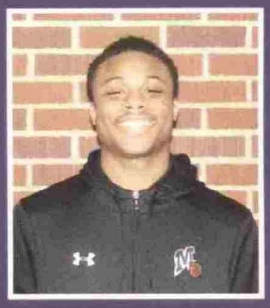


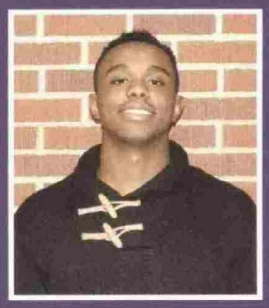
Standouts



Most Valuable Player
Demond Wilkins Jr.

Leadership
Marcel Cherry





Sportsmanship
Jarius Stevens

Most Improved
Mileek McMillan

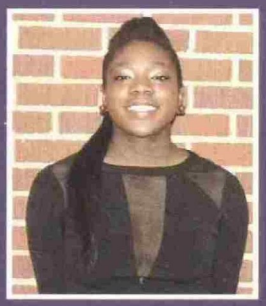
Scoreboard

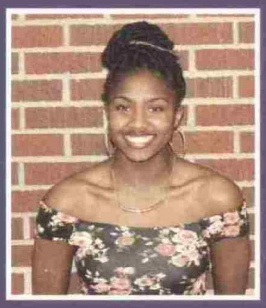
Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Southport	W	53-52
Highland	W	90-30
Bishop Noll	W	71-50
Andrean	W	56-40
Morton	W	84-57
East Chicago Central	W	84-81
Norwell	W	76-47
Hamilton Southeastern	W	73-72
South Bend Riley	W	79-68
Lake Central	W	56-42
Chesterton	W	57-51
Crown Point	L	53-50
Munster	W	82-57
Portage	W	88-48
Fort Wayne Carroll	W	48-44
Valparasio	W	75-71
Lowell	W	74-69
Lake Central	W	50-49
LaPorte	W	64-58
Michigan City	W	67-62
Hobart	W	59-41
Morgan Township	W	81-44
Penn	W	60-47
Seetionals	L	66-59

Season Record
22-2

Standouts

Most Valuable Player
Ashiala Jackson

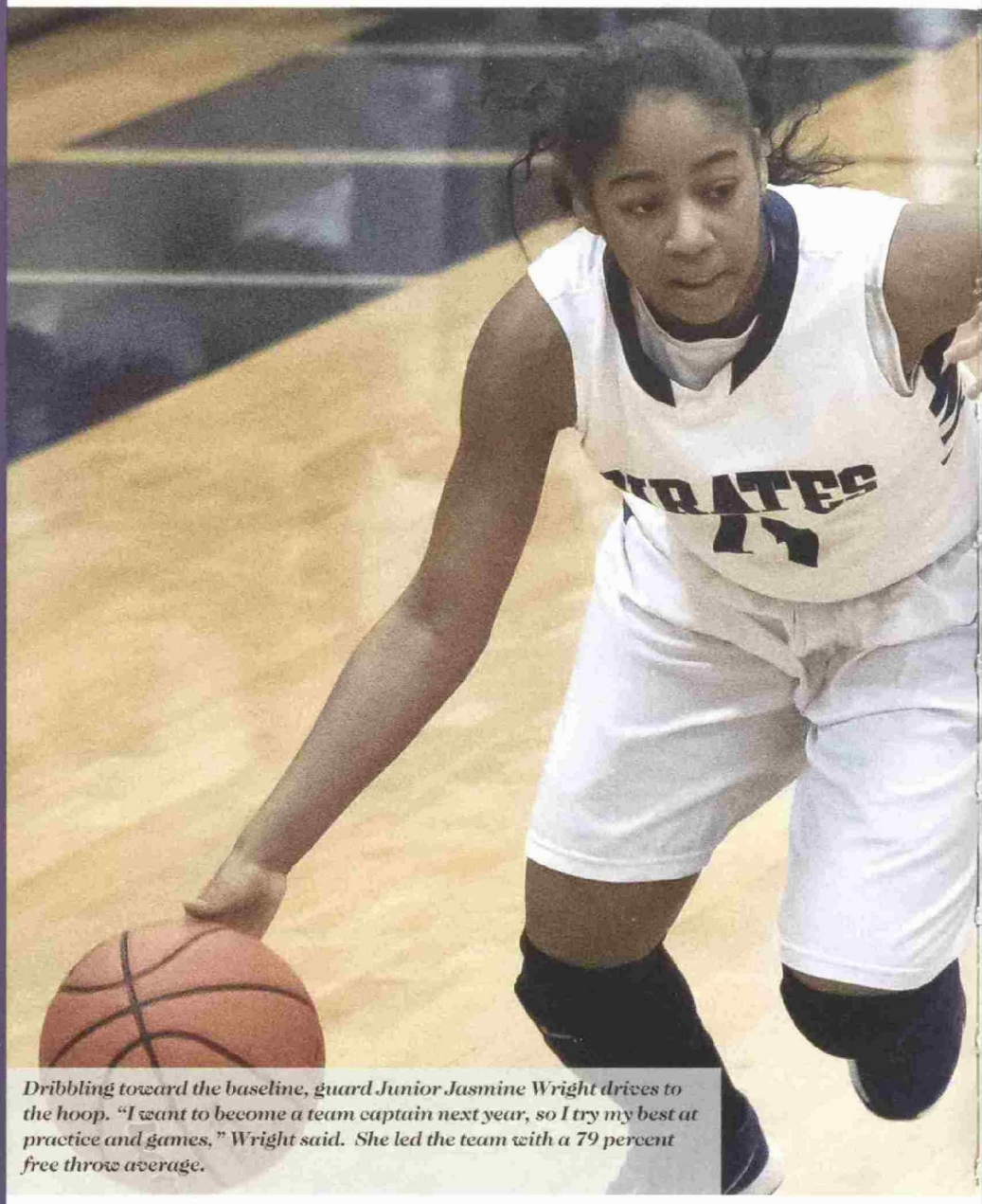




Leadership
Miracle Akins

Sportsmanship
Erika McClinton

Most Improved
Kristin McGee

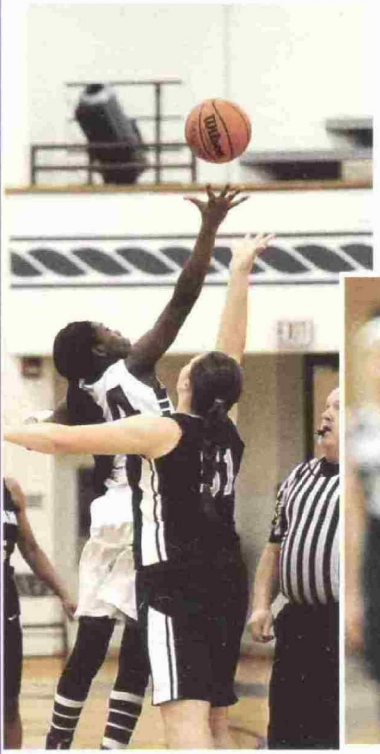


Dribbling toward the baseline, guard Junior Jasmine Wright drives to the hoop. "I want to become a team captain next year, so I try my best at practice and games," Wright said. She led the team with a 79 percent free throw average.

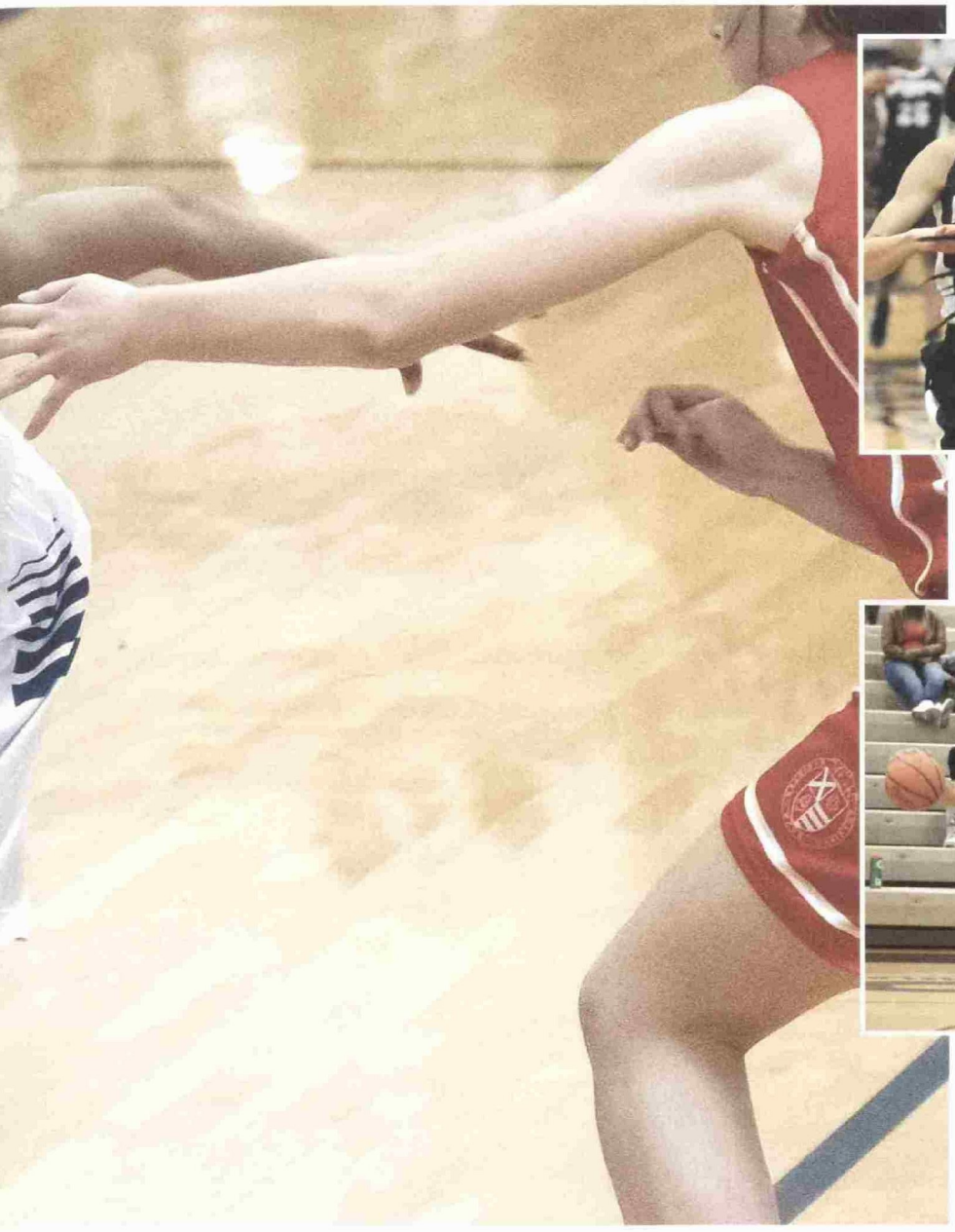
Scoreboard

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
South Bend St. Joseph	L	39-37
Bishop Noll	W	64-18
Andrean	W	60-41
Valparasio	W	53-40
Lake Central	L	53-36
Elkhart Memorial	W	60-44
LaPorte	W	53-23
Michigan City	W	60-34
Morton	W	65-47
Penn	L	54-41
Chesterton	W	59-40
South Bend Washington	W	67-24
Crown Point	L	61-53
Hobart	W	59-20
Portage	W	63-22
Lowell	W	73-29
Northridge	W	57-53
Sectionals		
Kankakee Valley	W	62-49
Portage	W	56-41
Crown Point	W	53-45
Regionals		
LaPorte	W	52-44
Penn	L	64-40

Season Record: 17-5



Left: At the tip off, forward Senior Ashiala Jackson wins the ball. "With this being my last year playing, I feel like losing is not an option," Jackson said. Jackson said she tries to lead the team by scoring at least 12 points per game. She also led the team in rebounds. Bottom: Eyes locked on the basket, point guard Junior Alexus Shirrells starts her free throw routine. "Basketball is a physical and mental sport," Shirrells said. "It takes a lot of time out of your day, but that's what made me better at guarding."



Going in for a lay-up, guard Senior Miracle Akins scores. "I feel like my confidence had a lot to do with my shooting," Akins said. "I shot a lot more this season compared to last."

With arms up, forward Senior Erika McClinton tries to keep possession. "I love playing basketball," McClinton said. "Being a senior, I really have to go hard every game." McClinton's three-point shooting percentage was 70, the best on the team.

Lady Pirates prove skeptics wrong; claim sectional title

After losing three key players to graduation, this year's team was faced with pressure to do their best.

Head Coach Amy Govert told her players to try their hardest, to have fun and not to think about what people are saying. They were to focus on the game.

"People think we won't be as successful this year due to losing those players, but I believe in my girls," Coach Govert said.

Since the team dealt with the pressure of people doubting them, they tried to stay focused by believing in each other and bonding with one another on and off the court.

"She helps me stay focused by saying positive things and helps us improve as much as she can," guard Junior Kiarra Thompson said.

Coach Govert would push her team to do their best by giving them inspirational quotes to get their heads focused on the goal to win.

"As a team, I want to be able to say we finished the season the best we could, with no regrets and everyone who doubted us were wrong," forward Senior Erika McClinton said.

The team consisted of 10 upperclassmen, so they all expected a lot of each other on the court.

"The pressure of losing the seniors last year is rough because a lot of people doubt us, but we continue to do our best and it really pays off," forward and center Junior Raegene Thomas said.

The team lost five games in the regular season and won the Valparaiso Sectional, advancing to the regional in LaPorte.

In the second game of the regional, they lost to Penn, who had beaten them earlier in the season.

Instead of focusing on all the good things during a game, Assistant Coach Kelly Kratz stayed more focused on the bad things which made the players reflect on what they have to improve on.

"Not only do I admire the coaches for keeping us focused," point guard Junior Alexus Shirrells said, "I admire all of the seniors because they're great leaders and push us to do our best."

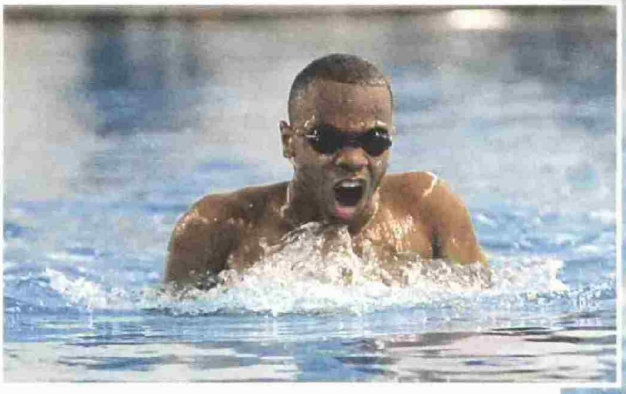
Precious Carter

Kristin McGee

Coach Amy Govert

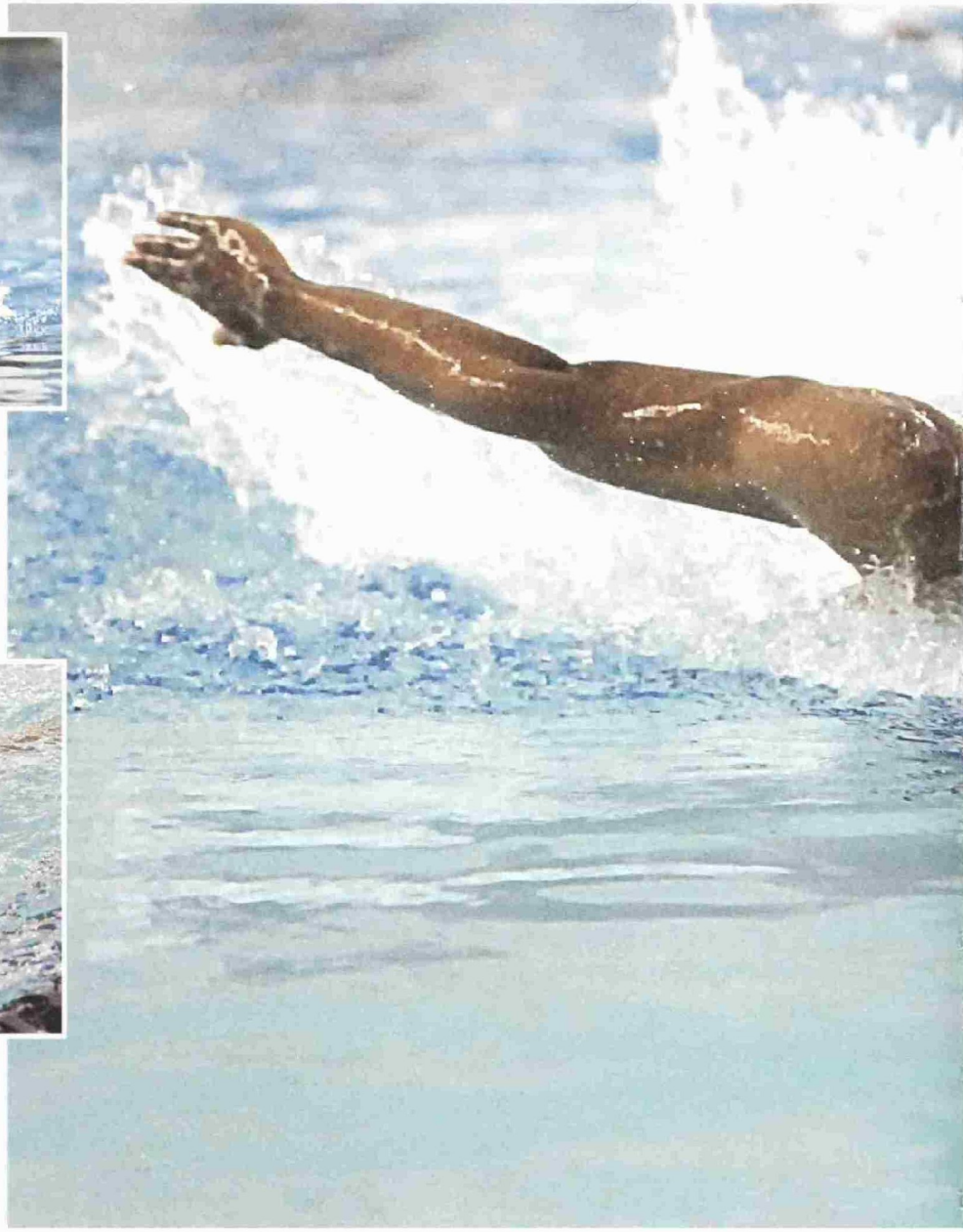
Kiarra Thompson

Makayla Pearson



While swimming the breaststroke, Sophomore Tavion Wheeler comes out of the water to breathe. His goal was to swim the 100 fly under 1:10. "Some of my achievements during the season were getting 1:09 in the fly and a .26 in the 50," Wheeler said. Wheeler has been swimming for four years.

Because a swimmer can select any stroke during a freestyle competition, Sophomore Tyler Jasso chooses the front crawl and comes of out the water to breathe. "My main goal for the season was to advance to the second round of sectionals," Jasso said. In the Chesterton Sectional, Jasso advanced to the second round in the 500-yard freestyle and came in 14th.



Boys' swimming team becomes more balanced, stronger

The boys' Swimming and Diving Team started the season with the goal to improve the win/loss column and perform well at sectionals.

Practices began with two-a-days in mid-October, when the team started "dryland training."

"The athletes can put more time into practicing," Coach Ladd Downham said. "We can use our morning times to put in special practices, like all-out sprinting. We also use mornings for weight training."

Another goal was to attract new members, and the team included eight new swimmers and divers.

"We have become a more balanced team," Coach Downham said. "Our upperclassmen are stronger and some of our JV guys from last year have stepped into varsity roles."

Team members also said they wanted to create a stronger bond.

"We grew closer as a team, and overall team bonding has been really important," Sophomore Maliq Cherry said.

Senior Wesley Babilonia identified his goals.

"My goal this season was to improve in my 200-yard and 50-yard freestyle and drop time," Babilonia said.

To perform better and perfect their techniques, Coach Downham said he relied on the upperclassmen to show the younger members how to succeed.

"They have shown our underclassmen the way to success," Coach Downham said of the seniors. "They have shown how to compete. They have shown how to work hard in practice. They have shown great character and how to do things correctly outside the pool."

In the Chesterton Sectional, three relay teams advanced to the finals. The 200-yard freestyle came in sixth, and the 200-yard medley and 400-yard freestyle came in seventh. Five individual swimmers and one diver also advanced to the sectional finals.

"They are a great group of guys," Coach Downham said, "who have worked hard to achieve their individual goals and pushed to get as many wins as possible."

Edmund Gunn Jr.

Da'trell Williams

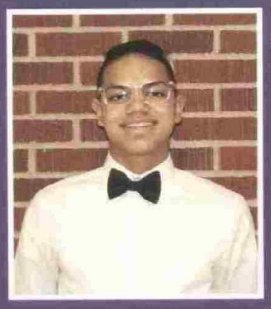
Jayson Jones

Andrew Keehn

Mael Guillemin

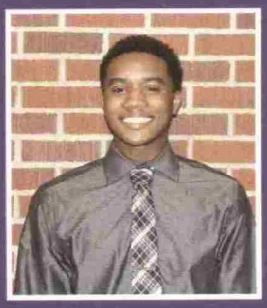
Moving both arms simultaneously and kicking, Senior Joshua Hiller swims the 100-yard butterfly. "My biggest achievement was when I swam the 100-yard butterfly under a minute," Hiller said. His goal for the season was to finish strong in sectionals. Hiller achieved his goal, swimming the 100-yard fly in 58.13. At sectionals, Hiller also swam the 200-yard medley relay, the 50-yard freestyle and the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Standouts



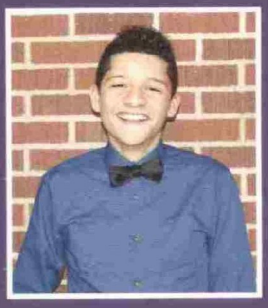
Most Valuable Swimmer
Joseph Harris II

Leadership
Brian Baran

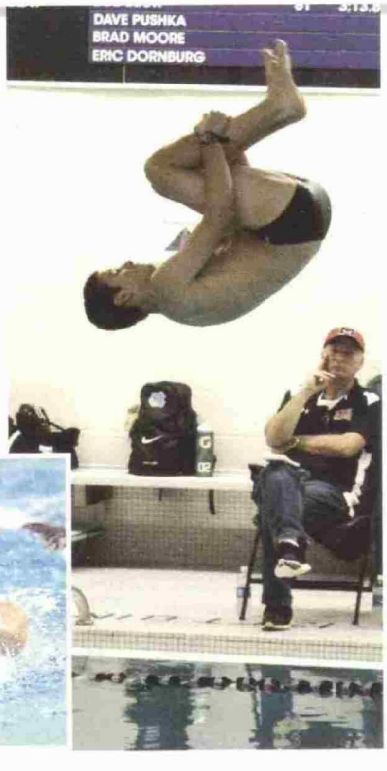


Sportsmanship
Kendall Tanniehill

Most Improved
Tyler Jasso



Right: Folded in a tight ball, Sophomore Justin Bhe performs a reverse somersault tuck. "My goal is to prepare for next season and learn more dives," Bhe said. His biggest achievement, Bhe said, was learning how to do a forward double somersault. Below: During a season meet, Senior Wesley Babilonia swims the 200-yard individual medley. Babilonia said his goal was to drop time and overall get better. "My first meet was my best meet," Babilonia said. Babilonia and his 200- and 400-yard freestyle relay teams advanced to sectionals, where they placed sixth in the 200-yard relay and seventh in the 400-yard relay in the second round of sectionals.



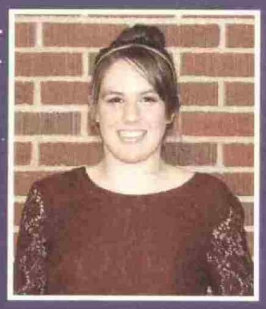
Scoreboard

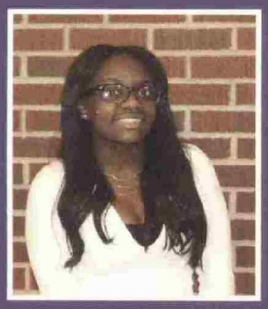
Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Portage	L	113-67
Rensselaer Central	W	123-60
Lake Central	L	129-56
Highland	L	98-88
Hobart	W	98-88
Crown Point	L	118-68
Griffith	W	148-25
Kankakee Valley	W	102-84
Lowell	L	106-80
Wheeler	W	120-59
Valparaiso	L	101-84
Munster	L	119-66
Michigan City	L	102-84
LaPorte	L	107-78
Bishop Noll	W	139-34
Chesterton	L	139-47
DAC		8th
Seetionals		7th

Season Record
6-10

Standouts

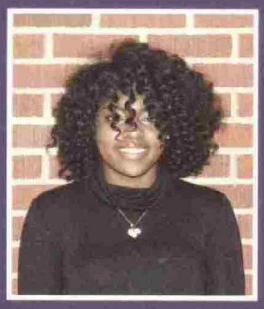
Most Valuable Swimmer
Hannah Sawyer





Leadership
Ebonie Ali

Sportsmanship
Jhonae Garmon

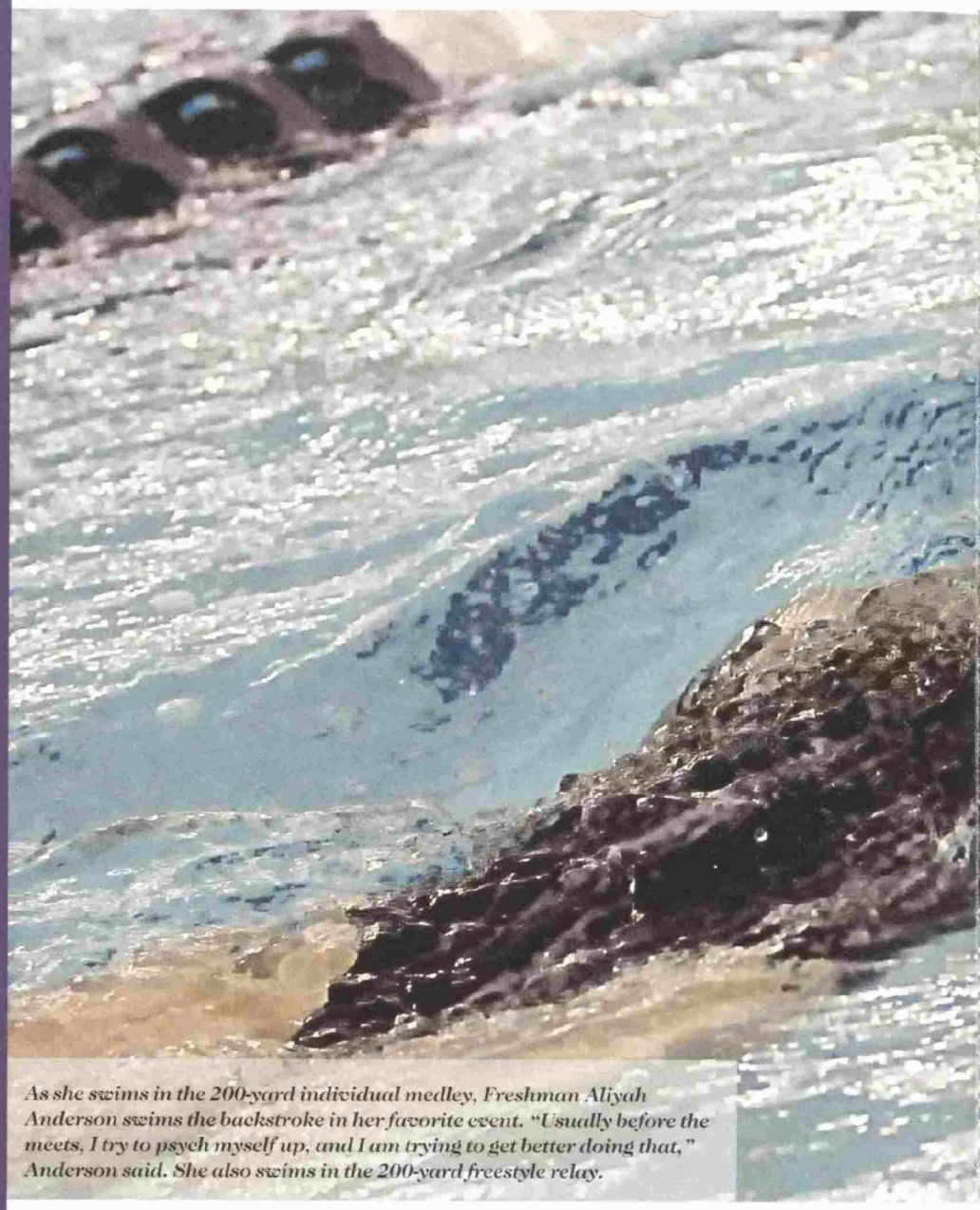


Most Improved
Janaye Thomas

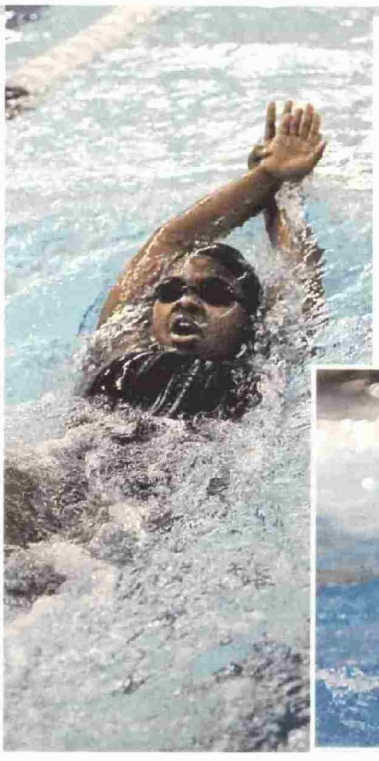
Scoreboard

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Lowell	L	125-57
Chesterton	L	152-53
Portage	L	142-37
Rensselaer Central	L	119-64
Lake Central	L	137-46
Highland	L	93-89
Hobart	L	124-62
Crown Point	L	136-47
Griffith	W	110-70
Kankakee Valley	L	115-71
Wheeler	W	93-74
Valparaiso	L	150-36
Munster	L	147-39
Michigan City	L	116-64
DAC		8th
LaPorte	L	116-69
Bishop Noll	W	143-24
Sectionals		8th

Season Record
3-13



As she swims in the 200-yard individual medley, Freshman Aliyah Anderson swims the backstroke in her favorite event. "Usually before the meets, I try to psych myself up, and I am trying to get better doing that," Anderson said. She also swims in the 200-yard freestyle relay.



Left: To drop time, Freshman Brookelyn Burks pushes herself as she swims in the 200-yard individual medley. "My biggest achievement with swimming is that it has improved my attitude and overall personality," Burks said. A swimmer since fifth grade, Burks said knowing that everyone is watching keeps her motivated. Below: During a meet, Sophomore Prysma Valdivia swims in the 100-yard breaststroke race. "My strongest stroke is breaststroke, but I want to improve on my butterfly," Valdivia said. Valdivia, who also swims in the 100-yard butterfly, said her motto to keep going is "Just keep swimming."

First-year swimmer Freshman Aracely Arteaga swims freestyle. "I do swimming because it's a good sport, and it works out every muscle. It's just a good, hard workout," Arteaga said. Before a meet, Arteaga said she usually walks around and listens to music to get in a competitive state of mind.

Swimming the fly, Sophomore Marisol Ramirez competes as part of a relay team in the 200-yard medley. Ramirez, in her third year swimming, said her "goal for this season is to reach 200 to 250 in the 200 free." The team practices six days a week for two hours each day.

New swimmers help members achieve goals, improve scores

Despite a rough start for the girls' Swimming and Diving Team, the girls achieved many goals this season.

Because the team attracted many new members, they entered more girls in more events. By the end of the season, the team had posted three wins and advanced three relay teams and six swimmers to the sectional finals.

The coaches said that throughout the season, the team remained focused and determined.

"The girls learned how to come together as a team and put their ideas together to focus on winning the meets," Coach Sarah Stallings said. "It made me excited to see my team work so hard toward their goals."

With practices running late most days and Coach Stallings working them harder than before, individual members of the team improved their scores quickly.

"Three of our girls improved their diving methods, and that was a big accomplishment because most of the feedback we get from people is how much we lack at diving," Junior Dejah Jones said.

Senior Hannah Sawyer, Juniors Ebonie Ali and Breonna Baggett, Sophomore Marisol Ramirez and Freshman Alyiah Anderson advanced to the sectional finals. Sophomore Laquiana Jones advanced in diving and three relay teams advanced.

The team hopes new people will join next year and that the girls they have now will remain on the team.

"We had one more win this year than last," Sawyer said. "Some girls worked really hard, and it ended up being a decent season with a lot of new people."

Sawyer, who achieved a personal best time of 5:50 in the 500-yard freestyle, said she encourages all students to make the most of high school.

"Just enjoy it in general," Sawyer said. "High school flies by. Don't waste your time doing stuff you don't like or you'll miss out on great opportunities."

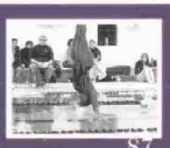
Joi Roche'

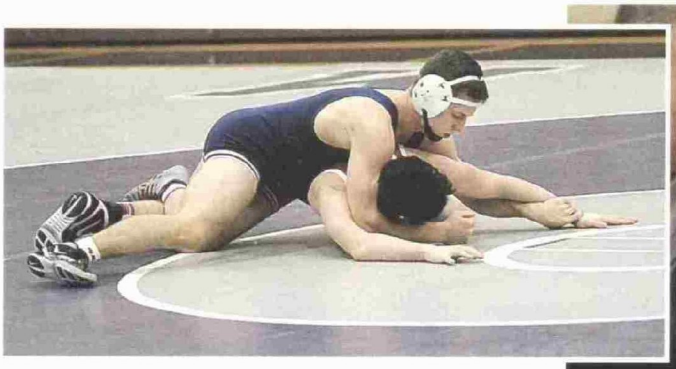
Breonna Baggett

Samantha Martines

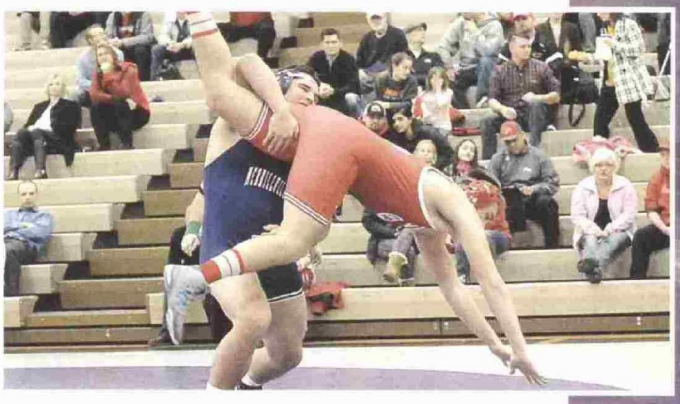
Janaye Thomas

Liane Chambers

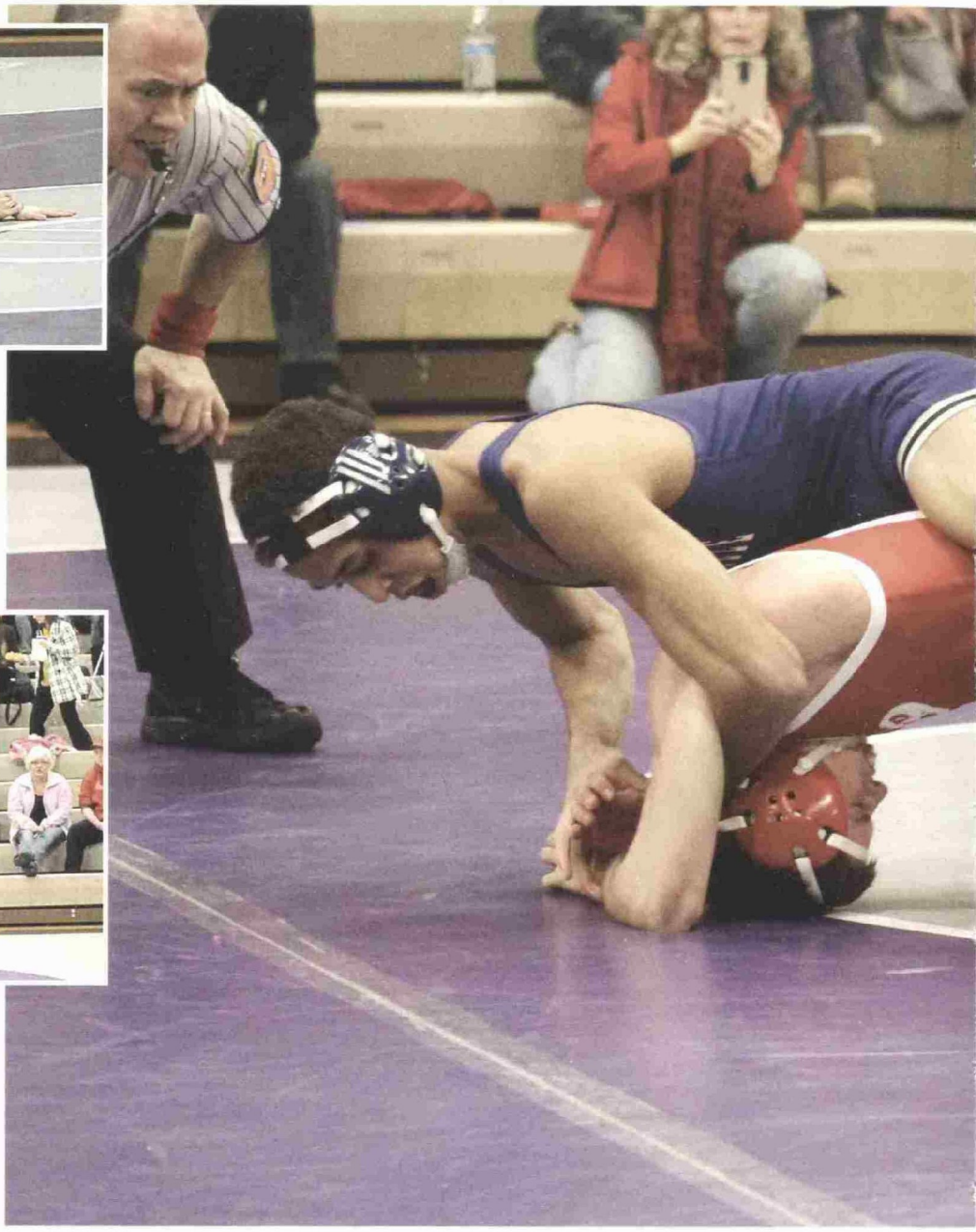




Cross-facing Crown Point's Osskar Kasch, Senior Jacob Covaciu looks for the fall. "My offense really helped me that match," Covaciu said. "I really opened up my offense, and I felt comfortable scoring a lot of points." Covaciu wrestles in the 160 weight class and had a fall time of 5:13. Covaciu is a two-time state champion and went undefeated this year with a season record of 42-0.



Taking Crown Point's Jacob Jeeninga down with a double leg, Senior Shawn Streck pins Jeeninga in 1:21 in the 285 weight class. "The Crown Point match is always fun because it's always in the main gym, and it draws a bigger crowd," Streck said. Streck finished his senior season as a two-time state champion with a season record of 45-0 and a career record of 175-8.



Despite rough start, wrestlers finish season strong

The Pirates faced several challenges at the beginning of their season with several injured wrestlers, causing the inexperienced wrestlers to step up and prove themselves.

"The beginning of the season was rough. We had a young team with only three returning wrestlers," Head Coach David Maldonado said. "We also had to overcome injuries, which affected the team's line-up because some of those injured guys would have been on our varsity line-up."

The inexperienced wrestlers were soon able to prove they were varsity material.

One who stood out was Junior James Davis.

"Wrestling up, I think, was a mental thing," Davis said. "I knew I had to get in my head that I need to win, not only for me, but for my team."

In time for sectionals, Sophomore Brandon Streck was cleared from injury, which helped the team overall. The team captured its 12th straight sectional title, and all 14 wrestlers advanced to regionals. Seven wrestlers advanced to semi-state, and four wrestlers advanced to state.

"It felt good to come back, but I knew if I wasn't injured, I could've made it farther," Brandon said. "Being at state wasn't nerve-racking. There were just a lot of people there, but overall it was a fun experience."

At state, Junior Michael De La Peña placed fourth, and Seniors Jacob Covaciu and Shawn Streck became Merrillville's first two-time state champions.

"It means a lot to have all the hard work and time I put into it pay off," Covaciu said.

Several injuries gave the team a rough start to their season, but they finished fifth at state.

"I think the season ended up a lot better than the beginning," Coach Maldonado said. "I'm just glad that the team stuck to what we were telling them all year about 'just work on getting better every day'."

Anthony Atria

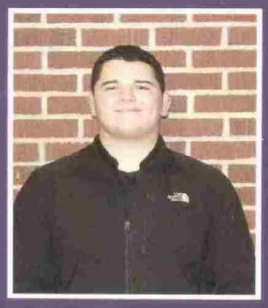
Martin Cruz

Masayoshi Nangin

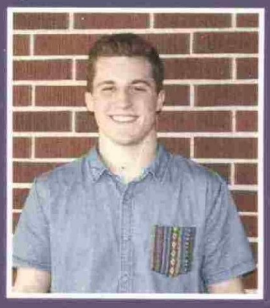
James Davis

Joshua Benton

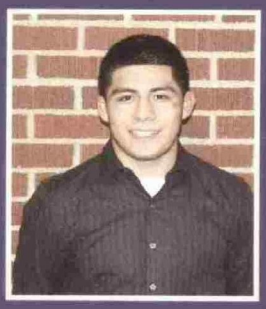
Standouts



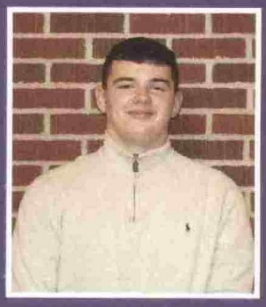
Most Valuable Wrestler
Shawn Streck



Leadership
Jacob Covaciu



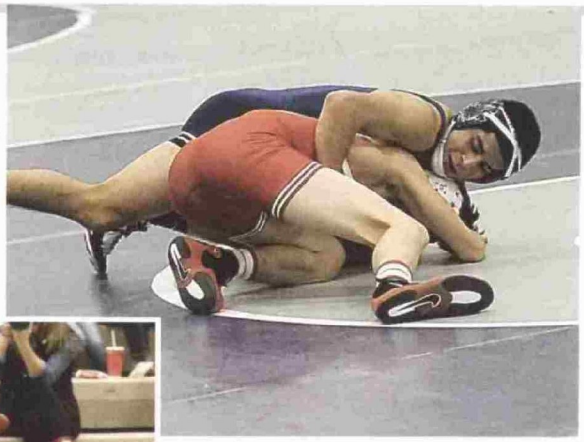
Sportsmanship
Michael De La Peña

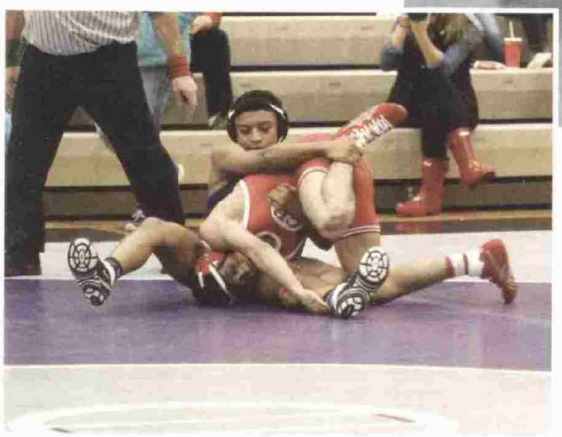


Most Improved
Brandon Streck

Wrestling Crown Point's Daylan Schurg in the 138 weight class, Sophomore Malik Hoover puts Schurg in a power half. "I gained a lot of skill over the summer and strength, which really helped me in my match, but I still think I could have done better," Hoover said. Hoover advanced to semi-state but lost in the quarter-final round.

Right: Breaking down Crown Point's Marek Bauner in the 126 weight class, Junior Michael De La Peña gets into a hammerlock position. "It was a tough dual against Crown Point because they always bring their best guys," De La Peña said. "But I think my ability to scramble really helped me." De La Peña placed fourth at state and ended his junior season with a season record of 37-9 and a career record of 107-23.





Left: In the 113 weight class, Freshman Jordan Carey scrambles for a position against Crown Point's Rehan Uribe. "My match was tough, and I know I could have done better, but he was a good opponent, and I started off slow," Carey said. Carey reached his goal to be on varsity his freshman year and also was the only freshman to make it to semi-state.

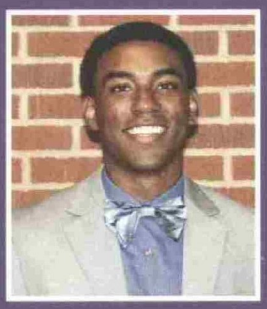
Scoreboard

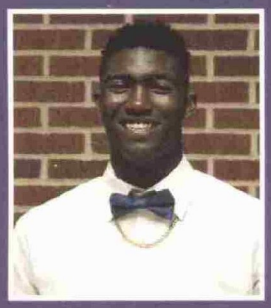
Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Valparaiso	L	39-28
LaPorte Duals	W (5)	1st of 5
Portage	L	56-15
Tom Cameron Invite	W (6)	1st of 8
Chesterton	W	40-32
Rich East Tourney		1st of 14
Mishawaka Invitational		6th of 31
Crown Point	L	49-19
Mat Mahem Tourney	L (3)/W (1)	7th of 8
Lake Central	W	51-19
DAC		5th of 8
Michigan City	W	78-6
Sectionals		1st
Regionals		3rd
Semi-State		3rd
State		5th

Season Record
14-6

Standouts

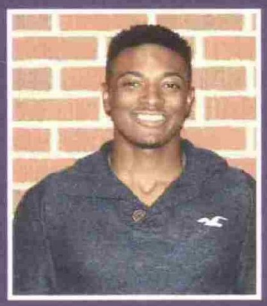
Most Valuable Player
Thomas Smith Jr.





Leadership
Matthew Meux

Most Improved
Michael Pearson

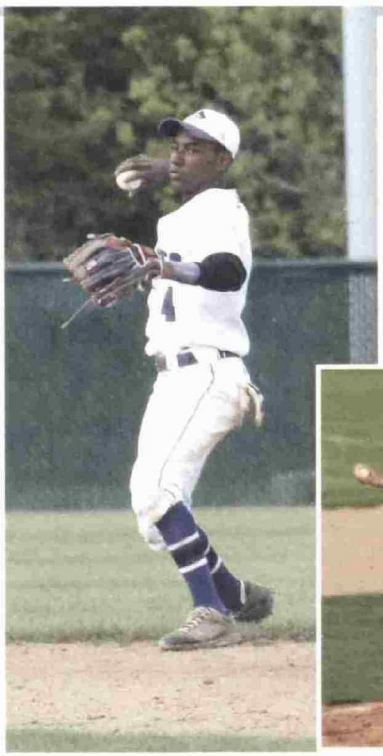


Scoreboard

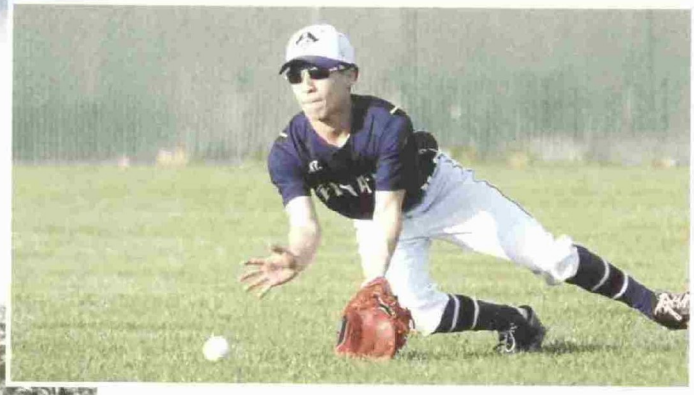
Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Hobart	L	13-0
Boone Grove	L	2-1
Washington Township	L	13-0
Valparaiso	L	4-3
Valparaiso	L	10-0
Lowell	W	5-3
LaPorte	L	10-0
LaPorte	L	6-1
Kankakee Valley	W	5-4
Michigan City	W	4-1
Michigan City	W	6-5
Hammond Clark	W	8-0
Lake Central	L	10-0
Lake Central	L	11-2
Rensselaer Central	W	11-1
Chesterton	L	11-1
Chesterton	L	9-4
Portage	L	5-1
Portage	L	7-0
Bishop Noll	L	15-4
Crown Point	L	3-1
Crown Point	L	11-0
West Lafayette (DH)	L	9-5
	L	9-8
Hammond Morton	W	7-5
Sectional	L	15-0

Season Record
7-19

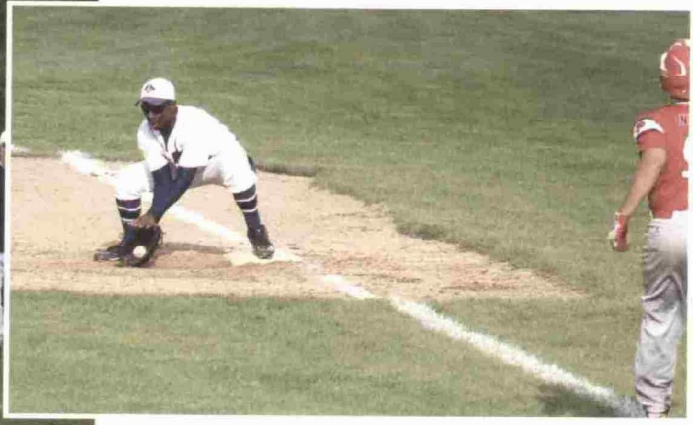
At home plate, second baseman Junior Darius Kendall gets ready for the pitch. "I can improve by working harder on my fielding and on my throwing," Kendall said. He said he is better than he was last year with the help of the team.



Left: With the ball in his hand, shortstop Senior Thomas Smith Jr. prepares to throw to first base. "This year, the team is a lot more close and put in more effort on the field," Smith said. He said he is becoming more of a leader this year than last year. Below: After he finishes his windup, Senior James Sutherland delivers a pitch against Portage. "I worked on a lot of things during the off-season like practicing, and results are showing for it," Sutherland said. He said before each game, he stretches, runs a couple laps and uses cross bands.



Playing right field, Junior Carlos Perez fields the ball. "My strengths are defense and speed, but my hitting could use work," Perez said. He said he is playing better defense but wants a higher batting average.



With the Portage base runner approaching, first baseman Junior Ayron Williams tries to turn a double play. "The team is a lot different because of the new coach, and we have more JV players starting varsity, so it's different experience levels," Williams said. He said he has good hands and hitting but could always improve on his throwing speed.

New coach, several new players help to unify team

Team members said they stayed unified and worked together throughout the season. After five tough losses to begin the season, their spirits remained high.

Most of the players on the team have been playing with each other for a long time, which explains their close bond. With nine seniors graduating at the end of the year, the team understands they will have to move on and step up for next season.

"It's upsetting that we are losing so many seniors this year. They are probably the most talented senior group in a while," Junior Ayron Williams said.

This year, Paul Wirtz joined the staff as varsity head coach. After all the hard practices, the players said they still have fun with each other and the coaches.

"All the players get along with the coaches," Junior Bradlee Ronning said. "We joke around with them and they joke around with us."

Along with a new coach, seven new players joined the team.

"At first, I was nervous because no one knew me. It was like playing a different team until I got used to it," Freshman Brandon Lucero said.

This season, the team was able to increase the number of pitchers, which enabled them to have a better season compared to last.

"Our strongest skill as a team is pitching," Junior Darius Kendall said. "We improved a lot from last year because all our pitchers came back."

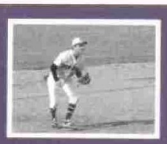
The boys ended their season with a loss at sectionals against Crown Point.

"We had confidence going into the game because we played them last week, and it was a close game," Senior James Sutherland said. "They just played better than us this time."

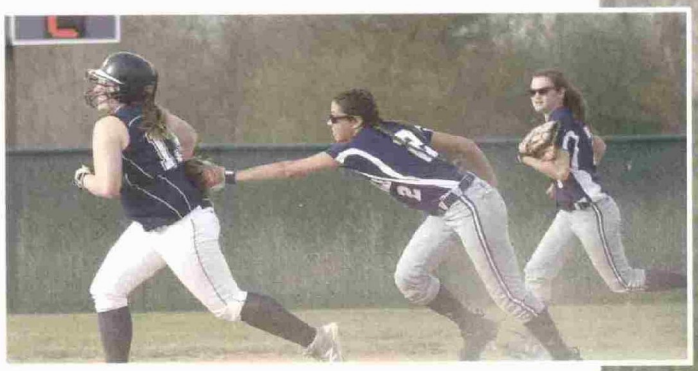
Brendon Bistriscan

Bradlee Ronning

Brandon Lucero



Matthew Meux



For the last out, shortstop Sophomore Alexis Ramos tags the runner out. "In the beginning of the game, my hitting was good, but my fielding wasn't," Ramos said. "After that play, it brought my confidence up, which improved my fielding for the rest of the game." Ramos said she is proud of the talent the team had this year.

With her eyes on the ball, second baseman Sophomore Marissa Ramos swings to hit the ball and to advance the runners on base. "When we played against Michigan City, my hitting was pretty good, but my fielding was better that game," Ramos said. "I didn't let anything get past me when the ball was coming my way."

Senior-strong team helps them win first round of sectionals

With the team of 11 being led by 6 seniors, the Pirates had a lot of talent this season. Their talent does not stop with the seniors on the team. The two juniors, two sophomores and one freshman also made a great impact on the team's success.

"Having a lot of seniors gave us more experience, but having five underclassmen that play travel ball helped a lot, too," centerfielder Senior Kristin McGee said.

The team's talent improved all around, but the girls agreed that fielding was their strong suit.

"Our fielding is better because our defense is solid, but we could never get in the rhythm of hitting the ball," outfielder Senior Miracle Akins said.

Head Coach Kristina Sides taught the girls new skills and changed her style to ensure the girls knew their next move.

"Coach designated a leader for both infield and outfield to make sure everyone knows what's going on and to keep focus for the next play," catcher Senior McKinzie Dalton said.

The girls said they believe their season went well overall.

"The season was better than last year," outfielder Senior Emily Glover said. "There was a lot of improvement and everyone got along this year, which helped us, too."

The girls' talent allowed the team to advance out of the first round of sectionals for the first time since 2004.

"It was a lot of fun, and it felt great to win," third baseman Junior Makayla Pearson said. "It helped us realize we can accomplish anything we put our minds to."

The Pirates finished their season at the second round of sectionals against the Hobart Brickies.

"Everyone came out saying we wouldn't make it. They thought we would lose," shortstop Sophomore Alexis Ramos said. "It made people come out, and it proved to people we have skill."

Makayla Pearson

Mi-Chae' Smith

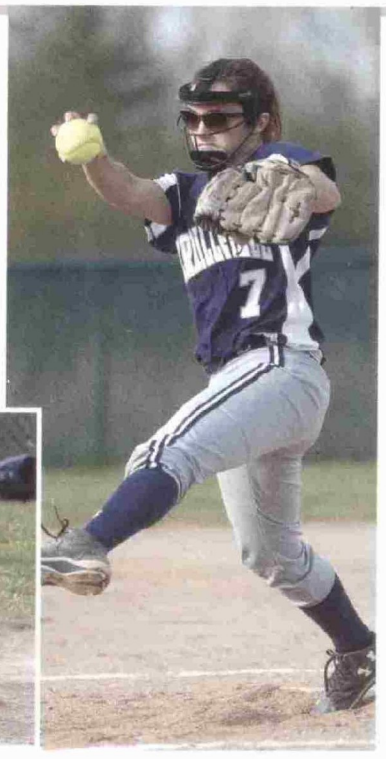
McKinzie Dalton

Kristin McGee

Nazaraih Perez

With her glove out and ready, first baseman Freshman Bailey Rapavi waits for the ball to make an out at first base. "We played hard and fought for a good win against Michigan City," Rapavi said. "I personally had a good balance between my fielding and hitting that game." Rapavi said the team learned a lot about how they play together, which really helped during this game.

Right: During the game against Michigan City, pitcher Senior Emily Glover pitches a fast ball. "The beginning of the game started off slow, but toward the third inning, we gained focus and started to score," Glover said. Glover said she has five different pitches: fast ball, change-up, screwball, knuckle ball and a drop ball. Below: Outfielder and pitcher Junior Jennifer Villanueva slides into home to score. "My hitting was good that game, but there's always room for improvement," Villanueva said. Villanueva started out in left field against Michigan City, then later went in to pitch.

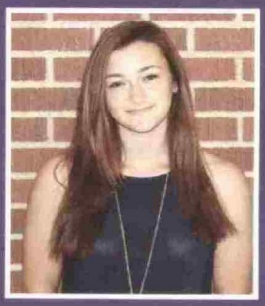


Standouts

Most Valuable Player
Kristin McGee

Leadership
Makayla Pearson

Sportsmanship
Arianne Conn



Most Improved
Emily Glover

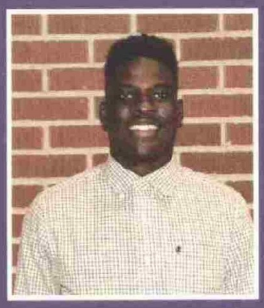
Scoreboard

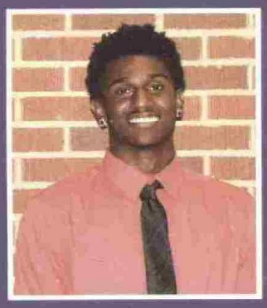
Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Highland	L	10-6
Griffith	L	6-1
Valparaiso	L	14-7
East Chicago Central	W	19-1
Kouts	W	13-2
LaPorte	L	7-0
Michigan City	W	14-5
Lake Central	L	11-2
Chesterton	L	8-2
Hebron	W	15-12
Portage	L	11-0
Crown Point	L	11-0
Lowell	L	3-1
Valparaiso	L	6-3
LaPorte	L	9-0
Hammond Morton	W	14-4
Michigan City	W	13-0
Lake Central	L	12-0
Chesterton	L	10-0
Portage	L	2-0
Hobart	L	11-0
Andrean	L	5-3
Crown Point	L	11-0
Boone Grove	L	6-2
Sectional		
Valparaiso	W	7-3
Hobart	L	6-1

Season Record
7-19

Standouts

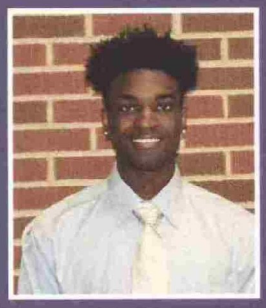
Most Valuable
Thomas Jones

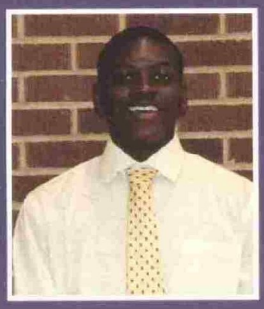




Leadership
JoRale Wheeler

Sportsmanship
Anthony Tucker Jr.





Most Improved
Nicholas Owens

Scoreboard

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Tri-Meet		
vs Crown Point	L	67-65
vs Lake Central	W	73.5-58.5
Ben Davis Relays		8th of 8
Tri-Meet		
vs LaPorte	W	91-41
vs Portage	L	67-65
West Lafayette Relays		4th of 9
Tri-Meet		
vs Valparaiso	L	73-59
vs Michigan City	L	69-63
Lime City Relays		2nd of 7
Chesterton	L	68-64
DAC Meet		5th
Sectionals		1st
Regionals		5th

Season Meet Record
2-5

With his lead leg over the hurdle, Senior Anthony Tucker Jr. races in the 110 meter hurdles during a home tri-meet against Portage and LaPorte. Tucker said at first he never wanted to be on the team, but Head Coach Patrick Coffey and Coach Anthony Curry persuaded him to join. Tucker raced to a second place finish at the Crown Point Sectional and fifth at the Valparaiso Regional.

Left: Gripping the pole, Senior Adam Serros prepares to vault over the cross bar. Outside of practice, Serros said he works out in the weight room to increase his arm strength. "I joined because I believed I could achieve great things in track," Serros said. He came in 7th at the sectional and 13th at the regional. Bottom: Focused on his throw, Junior Isaiah Davis throws the discus. Davis said he works on his technique by throwing on his own and taking his time at practice. "As soon as I step in the ring, all I think of is not to go too fast and take my time to focus," Davis said.

Trying to pass his opponent, Sophomore Darryl Robinson runs the 400 meter dash. Not only does Robinson run at practice, he said he also goes to a speed training camp to get better. "My brothers were my motivation to run," Robinson said. "I gotta finish what my brother Dayshoun started." Robinson ran the 4x400 relay with Seniors JoRale Wheeler, Nicholas Owens and Thomas Jones during state finals and came in third.

As he leaps from his take-off point, Junior Kenyatta Smith tries to get as high as possible to jump as far as he can. "I just have to work hard every day to get better because there are no days off," Smith said. Smith said he ran as much as he could and lifted in the weight room whenever he had the chance. He said his work paid off when he reached his own personal record of six feet.

Jones, Norton, 4x400 team bring home hardware from state

The team had high hopes for the season after not winning a meet last season.

The season opened with mix results.

In two close tri-meets, the team beat Lake Central and LaPorte and lost to Crown Point and Portage by a few points.

"This year's team had good leadership and depth. We had our players get a hold of second and third place finishes, not just first," Coach Patrick Coffey said.

The 4x400 team of Seniors Thomas Jones, Nick Owens and JoRale Wheeler and Sophomore Darryl Robinson set a record time early in the season at the West Lafayette Relays.

"Having the second best 4x400 time in the state is nice now, but kind of meaningless if they can't make it past sectionals," Coach Coffey said.

At the Crown Point Sectional May 19, the team beat rivals Crown Point and Lake Central for first place with 142.50 points.

The team advanced 17 individuals and 2 relay teams to the Valparaiso Regional.

At the regional, the team came in fifth and advanced six athletes to the state finals at Indiana University in Bloomington.

At state, Sophomore Brett Norton and Senior Anthony Sams competed in the shot put. Norton threw the shot put 51-10.50 for 9th place and Sams threw 50-06.50 for 16th place.

Jones ran the 300 hurdles in 38.77 and placed fifth. Robinson competed in the 400 meter run and placed 18th with a time of 50.52.

The 4x400 team came in third at state, a little more than a second behind the winners.

Justus Alexander

Jay'lon Gordon

Gabriel Ochoa

Zyriek Nickson

With the baton in her hand, Sophomore Maritza Frasier runs the 4x800 relay race. "I got into track because my whole family ran track, so I followed in their footsteps," Frasier said. "I started when I was five, and I have loved it ever since."

With her arm extended, Senior Jordan McDonald releases the shot put. "Looking through my dad's old track stuff one day made me want to do shot put and discus," McDonald said. "Track is a mental sport, and trying my best and doing my best is always my mindset." She placed second at sectionals with a throw of 36 feet, 7.5 inches.

Team steadily improves; five advance to state

The team conditioned and worked out during the indoor season to see positive results once the season moved outdoors.

By the end of the regular season and after regionals, the 4x800 team of Sophomores Natalie Dye, Diamond Taher, Brendea McNeal and Akelah Gonzalez and high jumper Senior Alivia Ash were headed to the state finals at Indiana University in Bloomington. The relay team finished 17th and Ash finished 12th.

Head Coach Kelly Kratz said she continued to see improvements during the outdoor season.

"I have very high expectations every year," Coach Kratz said. "I know what the girls can do every single day."

Coach Kratz said her strategy was to put her team through workouts and place them in events where they could be successful.

Success came to the 4x800 relay team. They set the school record during the Duneland Athletic Conference meet with a time of 9:48:41 and set a new record at the Chesterton Regional with a time of 9:38:19. As a team, they placed second at the Lowell Sectional.

"Setting a school record was the highlight of my season," McNeal said.

Junior Rae'gene Thomas, who throws the shot put, enjoyed her own highlights after an indoor season she said "didn't start off that well."

"I was only hitting 34, but I was working hard in the weight room, taking my practices seriously, and I started feeling better," Thomas said.

Thomas' highlights came when she threw 39 feet at a conference meet against Chesterton and came in first at sectionals.

"They exceeded my expectations, they cheer for each other and get excited about each other's success," Coach Kratz said.

Coach Kratz said that her team was made up of great individuals.

"We hope to see as many kids as we can see improvement," Coach Kratz said.

Thomas echoed her coach's sentiments.

"Everyone has been working hard, wanting to get better," Thomas said. "All of our losses have helped prepare us for the post-season."

Haley Funches

Eryn Jenkins

Maya Griffin

Meagan Wise

Christian Gridiron

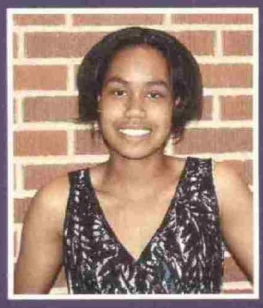
Standouts

Most Valuable
Alivia Ash

Leadership
Jordan McDonald

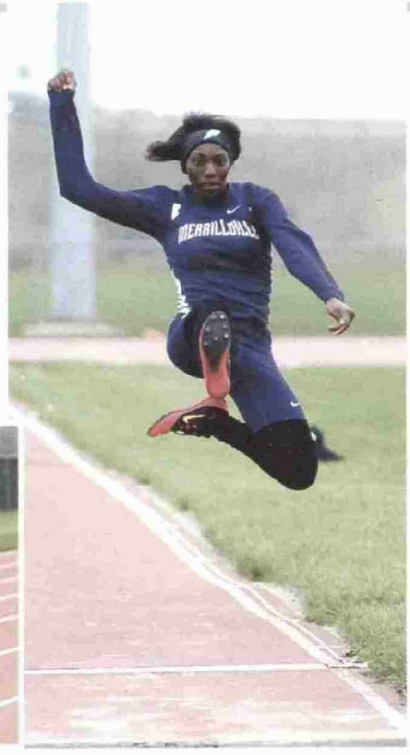
Sportsmanship
Maya Griffin

Most Improved
Natalie Dye



In the 100-meter hurdles, Senior Alivia Ash leaps over the hurdle. "Before a meet, I try to get my confidence level up and have a positive attitude and go in with the mindset that I am going to win" Ash said. "I don't like losing, and when I lose, it gives me my fuel and ambition to do even better to redeem myself." Ash placed second at sectionals in the high jump event with a height of 5-04.

Right: High in the air, Junior Zarria Moss tries to get a good distance in the long jump. "I started running track my freshman year because my mom told me to try out, and I have run and competed ever since," Moss said. "Also, I try not to get nervous, but to focus on not necessarily winning the race, but trying to beat my own record." Moss placed ninth in sectionals in the 300-meter hurdles event with a time of 52.21. Below: In the 100-meter dash, Sophomore Jasmine Beamon competes at a home tri-meet. "I practice really hard during the week with my groups. We do 100- and 300-block starts to help warm up," Beamon said. "While at a meet, I am very religious, so I listen to my gospel music and get into a mindset of never being afraid of your competition."



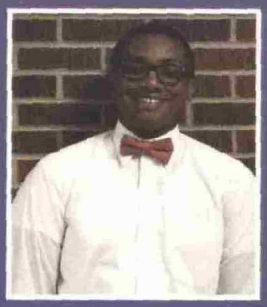
Scoreboard

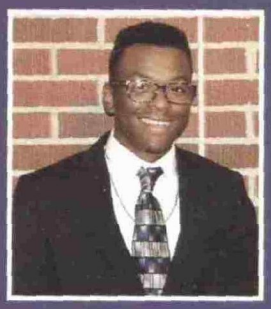
Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Tri-Meet		
vs Crown Point	L	94-38
vs Lake Central	L	109-23
Tri-Meet		
vs LaPorte	L	77-54
vs Portage	L	69-62
West Lafayette Relays		4th of 9
Tri-Meet		
vs Valparaiso	L	76-56
vs Michigan City	W	83-49
Lime City Relays		3rd of 7
Chesterton	L	76-56
DAC Meet		7th of 8
Sectional		3rd

Season Meet Record
1-6

Standouts

Most Valuable Golfer
Marcus Norton





Leadership
Elijah Royal

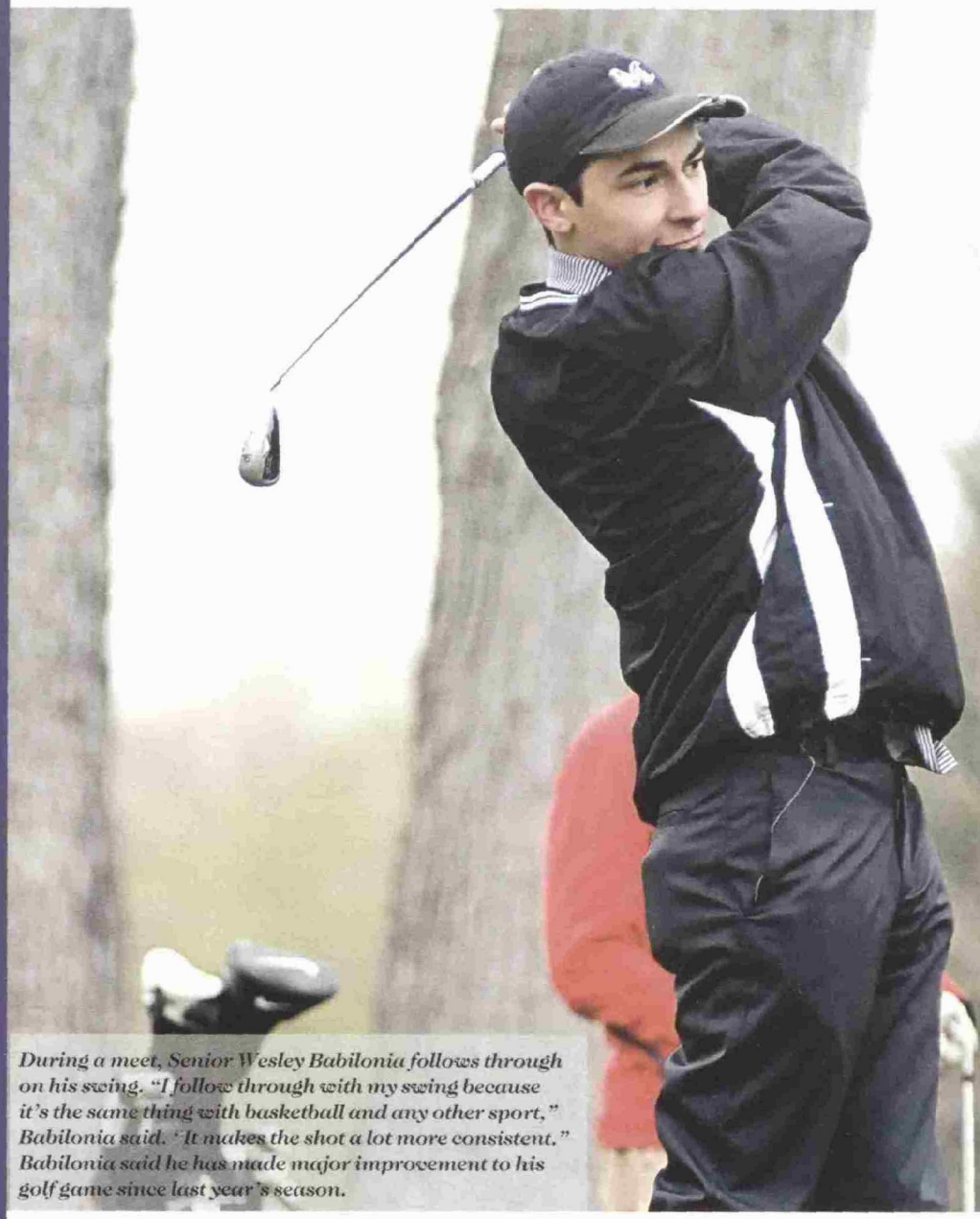
Sportsmanship
Keith Rochefort Jr.

Most Improved
Jaylin Scott

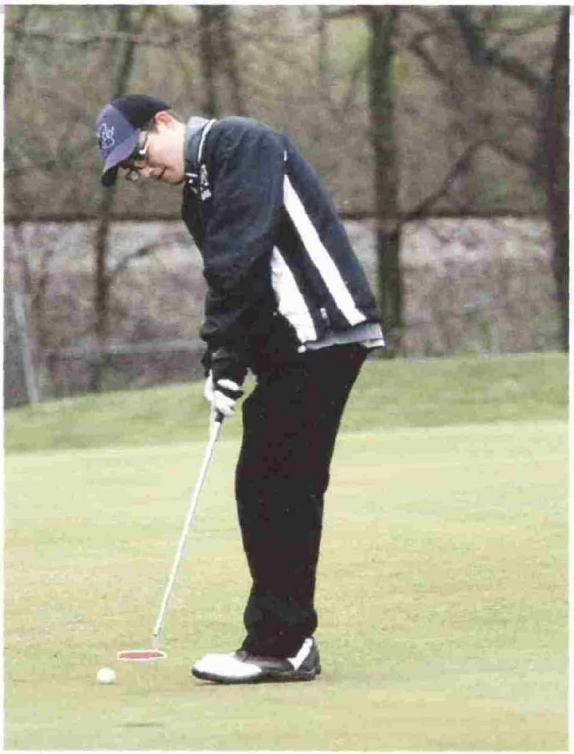
Scoreboard

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Kankakee Valley	L	185-213
Lowell	L	190-207
Calumet	W	195-224
Tri-Meet		
vs Michigan City	L	189-215
vs LaPorte	L	185-215
Tri-Meet		
vs Boone Grove	L	186-214
vs South Central	W	214-231
Tri-Meet		
vs Lake Central	L	161-214
vs LaPorte	L	176-214
Kankakee Valley Invite		10th of 15
Tri-Meet		
vs Chesterton	L	156-182
vs Portage	L	164-182
Valparaiso	L	166-189
Boone Grove Invite		6th of 9
Tri-Meet		
vs Michigan City	L	177-194
vs Crown Point	L	151-194
Portage	L	165-193
Tri-Meet		
vs Crown Point	L	163-192
vs Lake Central	L	168-192
Tri-Meet		
vs Chesterton	L	146-187
vs Valparaiso	L	161-187
DAC Invite		8th of 8
Sectional		5th of 11

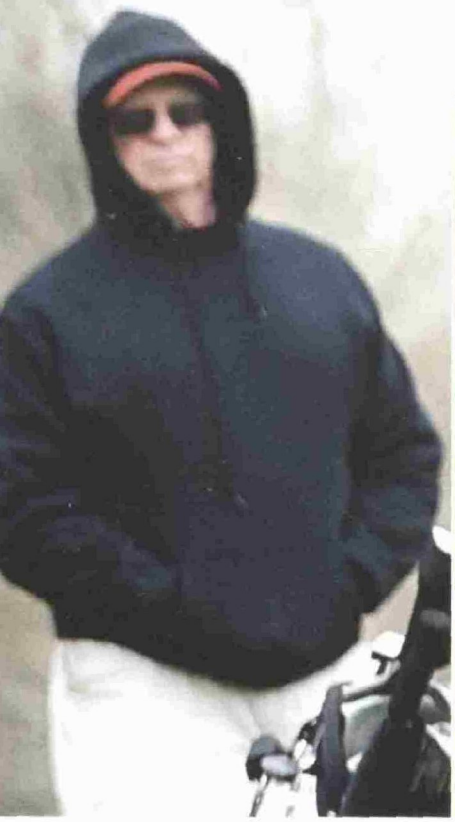
Season Record
4-12



During a meet, Senior Wesley Babilonia follows through on his swing. "I follow through with my swing because it's the same thing with basketball and any other sport," Babilonia said. "It makes the shot a lot more consistent." Babilonia said he has made major improvement to his golf game since last year's season.



In position to putt, Sophomore Keith Rochefort Jr. concentrates on the ball. "I like meeting new people from other schools to get experience with people I don't know," Rochefort said. Rochefort said he started playing because his father encouraged him.



With his feet shoulder width apart and his weight balanced, Junior Marcus Norton prepares to hit the ball on his downswing. "I love the solitude behind golf," Norton said. "You're in your own zone and you don't have to rely on other people." Norton said his goal for the season was to advance to regionals.

Looking toward the hole, Sophomore Angelo Strong gets ready to putt. "My favorite memory is when I was playing a different team, and I made a really long putt," Strong said. "I didn't think I was going to make it." Strong said he looks up to Sophomore Keith Rochefort Jr. because he is good and he helps him out.

Spring weather stalls season, not desire to play

The spring weather conditions caused many meets to be postponed, and the team often played in less than ideal conditions.

In 40 degree weather and rain at the Kankakee Valley Invite, the team came in 10th of 15 teams.

Still the team remained focused on its goals.

"I want to win more games than I did last year," Sophomore Keith Rochefort Jr. said.

By the end of the season at the Lake Central Sectional, Rochefort led the team by shooting an 83. The team came in 5th of 11 teams competing.

At eye level with the hole, Junior Elijah Royal lines up the ball to putt. "I've been playing for 12 years," Royal said. "I love how there is more to golf than just the sport itself. It teaches you life lessons." Royal posted the team's lowest score, 83, at the Duneland Athletic Conference Meet.

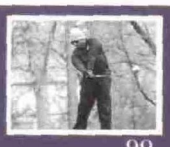
Angelo Strong

Elijah Royal

Wesley Babilonia

Keith Rochefort Jr.

Marcus Norton



As she uses the backhand stroke, No. 3 singles Junior Emily DeCausemaker hits the ball over the net. Determination and focus is the reason DeCausemaker said she has been in tennis since sixth grade. "I love my sport so much and the coaches just as much," DeCausemaker said. "And my sister played as well, so I wanted to keep tennis in the family."

With her focus on the ball, No. 2 doubles Senior Janae Williams uses the volleying stroke. "Playing tennis has made me realize that teamwork and cheering my teammates to motivate them is really important to me," Williams said. She said trying out for tennis really paid off in the end because she learned a lot.

Teamwork, motivation allow team to win more matches

The season started off with four wins, giving the girls the confidence for the rest of the season ahead of them.

The girls had high expectations for the season to come. Each player had a similar goal: to win more matches than the year before.

"I expect to win a lot more matches than last year," Senior Mariah Jimenez said. "I want to go further into sectionals this year."

The girls worked hard to reach their goal, and they were successful, winning five matches by the end of the season.

Before every match, the girls would pray for a good game and possibly a win, but whether the match went good or bad, they still stayed motivated.

"My teammates motivate me because we're playing for each other," Senior Erika McClinton said.

The girls' season ended with five wins. After a bye in the first round of the Hobart Sectional, they beat River Forest 3-2, advancing to play Andrean in the sectional final.

Against Andrean, the doubles team of McClinton and Senior Claribell Quinones was the sole winner.

The win kept the season alive for the doubles team, and they advanced to the individual tournament.

On June 4 in LaPorte, against the Northwood doubles team, McClinton and Quinones lost 6-1, 6-1.

Madison Bullock

Jaslyn Martines

Illaha Abdul

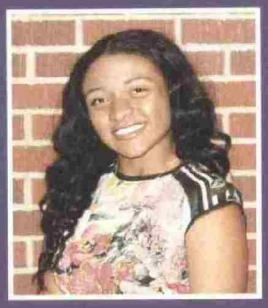
Bethany Rochefort

Katelyn Vinson

Using the ground stroke, No. 1 doubles Senior Claribell Quinones hits the ball toward her opponent. "My uncle got me into the game of tennis by having me play tennis with him when I was younger," Quinones said. She said the importance of having self-confidence and motivation all came from her playing tennis.

Right: While pushing the ball outward, Freshman Nijaia Jones returns the ball to the other team. "Keeping me motivated is my motto because the scores don't matter to me," Jones said. "It just depends on your own individual mindset." Below: Returning the ball to her opponent, No. 2 singles Senior Mariah Jimenez uses the forehand stroke. She's been playing tennis for six years, so Jimenez has always loved her sport. "It makes me so happy to play because I'm really good at something I enjoy doing," Jimenez said.

Standouts



Most Valuable Player
Erika McClinton

Leadership
Claribell Quinones

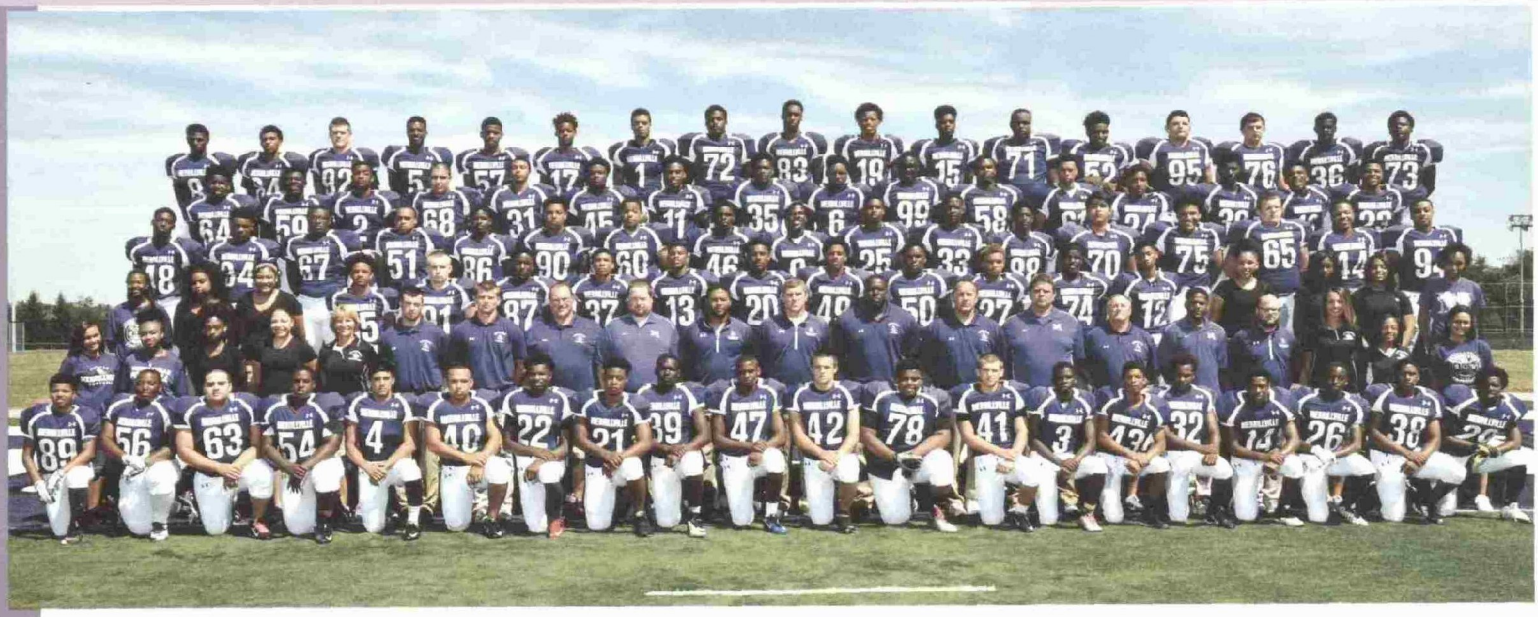
Sportsmanship
Bethany Rochefort

Most Improved
Illaha Abdul

Scoreboard

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Highland	W	5-0
Boone Grove	W	4-1
Warsaw Tourney		8th of 8
Lowell	W	3-2
Hobart	W	3-2
Valparaiso	L	5-0
Whiting	W	3-2
Portage	L	5-0
Chesterton	L	5-0
Lake Central	L	5-0
Crown Point	L	5-0
Michigan City	L	4-1
LaPorte	L	5-0
Sectional	L	4-1

Season Record
5-7



Varsity Football

Head Coach: Brad Seiss

First row: Marcus Hayes, Keylian Brown, Oscar Cabrera, Willie Williams, Adam Serros, Devon Harmon, Cameron Thompson, Zaire Moss, Dennis Weston, Brett Norton, Maxwell Govert, Blake Turley, Brandon Bramson, Donovan Carpenter, Keeshawn Weaver, Tylum Moncreace, Laquant Williams, Khalil Porter, Dwayne King, Austin Hendricks; Second row: Vanessa Gomez, Carrington Morse, Carissa Lewis, Jayna Moore, Susan Hayes, Coach Joe O'Connell, Coach Connor Buxton, Coach Joe Atria, Coach Paul Trembacki, Coach Anthony Curry, Coach Brad Seiss, Coach Henry Johnson, Coach Brian Parker, Coach Josh Sabinas, Coach Dennis Hamilton, Coach Kenny Smith, Coach Jeffrey Eaton, Dana Deloian, Raemere Mitchell, Cynthia Gomez; Third row: Dominique Bland, Angelic Tillman, Jomaria Burns, Aahron Whitehead, Bradlee Ronning, Justin Jerry, Xavier Griffin, Ivan Cook, Davion Ervin-Poindexter, Dontrell Pope, Marcellis Simmons, Airron Blissett, Ari Stone-Tekeste, Justus Alexander, Tiara Pruitt, Devon Bailey, Precious Carter, Erin Sims: Fourth row: Keith Green, Myles Taylor, Jay'lon Gordon, Aaron Lott, Robert Williams, Keshawn Lilly, Ryan Atkins-Frazier, Kejuan Thomas, Thomas Jones, Braedan Stubbs, Tyjonn Lockett, Darryl Robinson, Andrew Hernandes, Alphonso Blackwell III, Andrew Vander Woude, Davon Smith, Ryan Taylor: Fifth row: Kevin Carter Jr., Isaiah Davis, Sean Roch'e, Matthew Mallon, Isaiah Toodle, Anthony Sams Jr., James Kirklen Jr., Tela Combs, James Walters III, Nickoleus Riley, Alfred Stubbs III, Myles Alford, Moses Johnson Jr., Matthew Thompson, Carl Stokes III, Isaiah Thornton; Back row: JoRale Wheeler, Jacob Toodle, Nathan Woodworth, Demond Wilkins, Jeremiah Marshall, Kenyatta Smith, Adam Neal, Quinten Barnslater Jr., Matthew Sims, Kameron Jackson, Anthony Tucker Jr., Cameron Dunlap Jr., Jalen Williams, Shawn Streck, Brandon Streck, David Gaines Jr., Brandon Williams.

Freshman Football

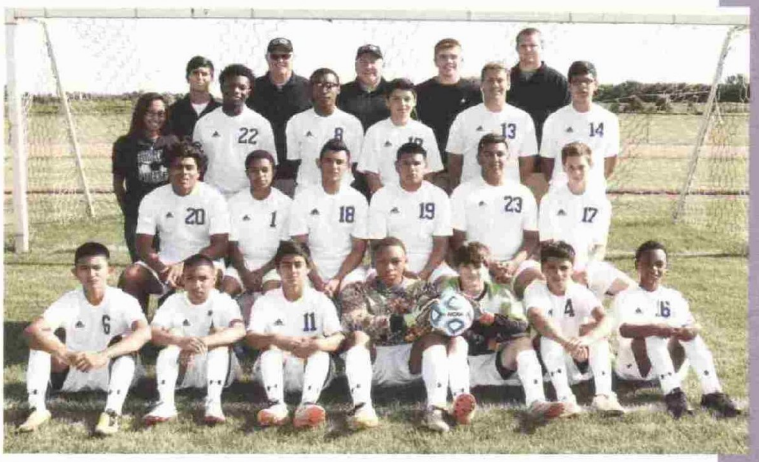
Head Coach: Connor Buxton

First row: Ke'von Gill, Keith Hopkins, William Fulton, Jontrell Crowder, Christian Smith, Javon Lindsey, Mike Austin; Second row: Emilio Salas, Daveon Thomas, Jaylen Glass, Malcolm McGee, Jalen Ray, Jacob Weber, Aubin Robison, Bobby Walton, Deep Patel; Third row: Coach Paul Trembacki, Dakari Alford, Michael Dias, Malcolm Reese, Marcellus Swain, Mario Chambers, Marvin White, Luke Shufford Jr., Coach Buxton, Coach Kenneth Smith; Fourth row: Marc Guerrero, Anthony Swims, Daijon Gray, Devin Pope, Timothy Sunny, Cameron Wright, Yashar Johnson; Fifth row: Kenneth Stubblefield, Marshon Jones, Drew Bailey, Devione Smith, Tyvion Howard, Shareef Dawson; Back row: Miller Blackwell, Eric Kendrick, Jordan Phelps, Anthony Atria, Joseph Scott, Justen Ramsey, Joshua Benton.

Varsity Volleyball
Coach: Veronica Sixy
Front row: Casey Harvey, Emily Glover, Ireon Smith, Aubren Rosas; Second row: Maya Griffin, Angel Munchenburg, Makayla Pearson, Amber King, Alexis Ramos; Back row: Assistant Coach Christina Brown, Ashley Ojo, Lauren Pryle, Coach Sixy.

Junior Varsity Volleyball
Coach: Joan Gordon
Front row: Madyson Davis, JayLynn Hardrick, Alexandra Chambliss, Jermani' Keys, Natalia Gonzales; Second row: Emily Lesich, Hailey Karpen, Raina Hertl, Olivia Stevens; Back row: Coach Gordon, Torian Bryant, Shelby Harmon, Tierra Harris, Mekhayla Gibson.

Boys' Varsity Soccer
Head Coach: Brain Past
Front row: Michael De La Peña, Daniel Barajas, Edgar Valdez, Victor Gutierres, Qwentin Richmond; Second row: Joshua Morando, TyRaye Austin, Alexander Navarro, David Lagunas, Joaquin Morando; Third row: Maxwell Stevens, Jorge Gaona, Brian Baran, Tomas Rodrigues, Jonathan Serrato, Oscar Hernandes Jr., Jorge Osoria Jr., Viridiana Carrillo; Back row: Assistant Coach Jimmy Ramires, Assistant Coach Rick Hurey, Coach Past, Assistant Coach Jeff Jelenik, Assistant Coach Alexander Betala.



Boys' Junior Varsity Soccer
Head Coach: Rick Hurey
Front row: Masayoshi Nangin, Juan Maldonado IV, Axel Martines, David Nash Jr., Michael Croy Jr., Marcos Hernandes, Brian Otis Jr.; Second row: Aaron Corrales, Antoine Johnson Jr., Christian Mendoza, Alfredo Zuniga, Christian Licea, Dylan Burns; Third row: Viridiana Carrillo, Cameron Thompson, Rackesh Ragoo, Juan Carrillo, Kyle Klingaman, Marco Hernandez; Back row: Assistant Coach Jimmy Ramires, Coach Hurey, Coach Brian Past, Assistant Coach Alexander Begala, Assistant Coach Jeff Jelenek.

Girls' Varsity Soccer
Head Coach: Ben Daniel
Front row: Grettel Peralta, Reannah Soto, Meagan Wise, Hope Krajnak, Elizabeth Croy, Chadryne Tamo; Second row: Brianna Brown, Symantha Croy, Rebecca Knight, Scarlett Peralta, Maritza Frazier, Tirsa Mercado; Third row: Raege'ne Thomas, Erika McClinton, Alanna Heath, DeLaney Richards, Sydney Kenner; Back row: Coach Daniel, Assistant Coach Jason Kendera.

Girls' Junior Varsity Soccer
Head Coach: Tammy Deel
Front row: Arianna Carrillo, Julianna Carrillo, Xitlalic Viramontes, Isaton Samba, Viviana Lagunas, Brittany Greer; Second row: Latoria Moss, Karina Robledo, Laquiana Jones, Tavia Campbell, Akelah Gonzales, Sydney Kenner; Third row: Lynia Richardson, Jasmin Creal, Tori Pruitt, Lauryn Thomas, Kyrah Pirtle, Kyra Stevens; Back row: Coach Ben Daniel, Coach Jason Kendra, Jhonae Garmon, Cynthia Quiros, Coach Deel.

Girls' Golf
Coach: Patti Tubbs
Front row: Kathryn Jurczyk, Alexis Henney, Hunter Kaiser, Lacy Bridgeman; Back row: Coach Tubbs.

Boys' Tennis
Coach: James Simon
Front row: Cameron Louthan, Justin Jackson, Wesley Babilonia, Keith Rochefort, D'Angelo Brown, Ivan Sahagun; Second row: Justin Villanueva, Ayron Williams, Gerald Akujobi, Marcus Miller, Tyler Jasso; Back row: Josh Raddatz, Deion Charleston, Terry Sabbath, Derel Shell, Joseph Harris II.

Boys' Cross Country
Head Coach: Michael Hoffman
Front row: Gabriel Ochoa, Nathan Dye, Alec Edwards, Wesley Davis, Tyreak Thomas; Second row: Assistant Coach Patrick Coffey, Mael Guillemin, Christian Bracey, Justin Bhe, Dondre Minnion, Coach Hoffman; Back row: Kadari Exson, Nicholas Doneski, Nicholas Owens, Hayden Harmon.

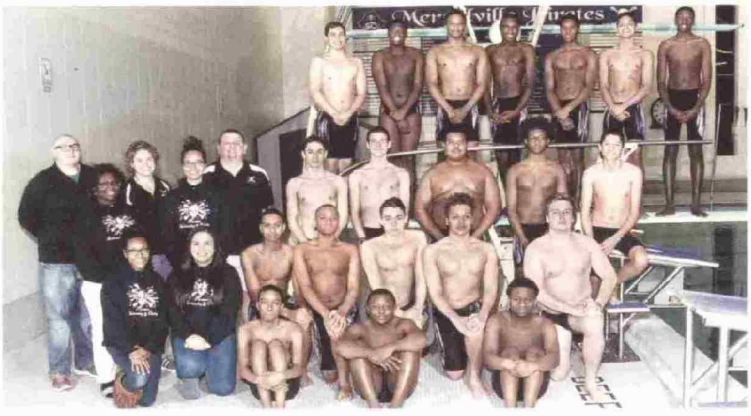
Girls' Cross Country
Head Coach: Michael Hoffman
Front row: Marisol Ramirez, Kiara Key, Brendea McNeal, Caroline Prot, Destiny Hernandez; Back row: Coach Hoffman, Diamond Taher, Natalie Dye, Le'Anna Scott, Prysma Valdivia, Eryn Jenkins, Assistant Coach Patrick Coffey.

Gymnastics
Head Coach: Diane Roberts
Front row: Ke'leica Junigan, Jadyn Lawson; Second row: Kaniyah Pharms, Crystn Morgan, Amara Hester, Jasmyne Magee, Hunter Kaiser, Bethany Rochefort, Kylah Nicholson; Back row: Cheyenne Roberts, Coach Roberts, Assistant Coach Nick Roberts, Austin Brakley-Lain, Steffan Santiago, Assistant Coach Valerie Bly, Assistant Coach Amy Aponte, Heather Osorio.

Boys' Freshman Basketball
Coach: Michael Holden
Front row: Deon Jones, Labaron Strongs Jr., Xavier King, William Fulton III, Terrance Wheeler III; Second row: Isaiah Annan, Antoine King, Darryon Bandy, Anthony Swims; Back row: Eric January, Lavari Ruffin, Coach Holden, Isaiah Maynard.

Boys' Varsity Basketball
Head Coach: T.J. Lux
Front Row: Breon Smith, James Walters III, Marcel Cherry, Demond Wilkins Jr., Johnny Bernard; Second Row: Alphonso Blackwell III, Mitchell Ward Jr., Jonah Jackson, Charles Jacobs II, Cameron Wilbon, Terry Sabbath; Third Row: Kameron Jackson, Jairus Stevens, Mileek McMillan; Back Row: Assistant Coach Michael Holden, Coach Lux, Assistant Coach Bojan Jovanovic, Assistant Coach Bo Patton.

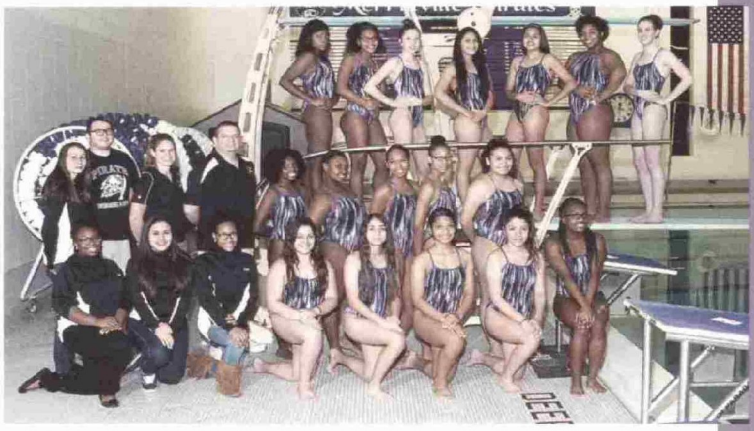
Girls' Varsity Basketball
Head Coach: Amy Govert
Front row: Madison Bullock, Alexus Shirrells, Miracle Akins, Carissa Lewis, Jasmine Wright, Cayla Jenkins; Second row: Erika McClinton, Kristin McGee, Kiarra Thompson Makayla Pearson; Back row: Coach Govert, Ashiala Jackson, Rae'gene Thomas, Assistant Coach Kelly Kratz.



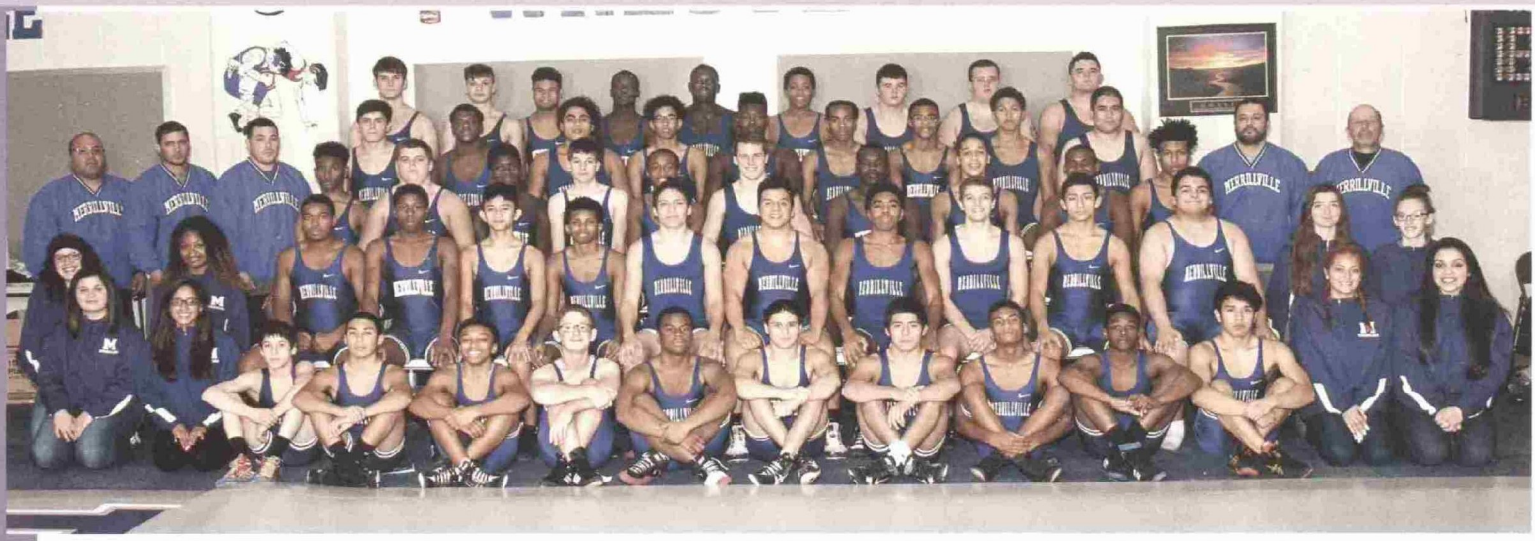
Boys' Swimming and Diving
Head Coach: Ladd Downham
Front row: Alton Desadier III, Arshawn Wynn, Josiah Alford; Second row: Saniah Isabell, Viviana Lagunas, Da'trell Williams, Tavion Wheeler, Mael Guillemin, Andrew Keehn, Brian Baran; Third row: Coach Jeremy Boyer, Adrianna Bell, Coach Sara Stallings, Olivia Taylor, Coach Downham, Wesley Babilonia, Justin Bhe, Edmund Gunn Jr., George McClendon III, Tyler Jasso; Back row: Alexis Lopez, Maliq Cherry, Joshua Hiller, Anthony Hardin, Kendall Tanniehill, Joseph Harris II, Joenathan Smith.

Boys' Junior Varsity Basketball
Head Coach: Bojan Jovanovic
Front row: Robert Sanders Jr., Sharrod Mitchell, Nolen Thomas, Syrrus Nunn; Second row: James Kirklen Jr., Bryson Jenkins, Braedan Stubbs; Third row: Assistant Coach Michael Holden, Jaylon Holmes, Dominic Bethel, Daniel Carey, Coach Jovanovic.

Girls' Junior Varsity Basketball
Head Coach: Connor Buxton
Front row: Madison Bullock, Kennedy Tanniehill, Paige Wood, Jade Hamilton, Amari Johnson, Cayla Jenkins; Second row: Precious Carter, Zarria Moss, Akelah Gonsales, Myjae Armstrong, Ma'Kaela Patterson; Third row: Brittney Williams, Shelby Harmon, Denae Joshua, Bionca Sams, D'Asia Williams; Back row: Assistant Coach Christina Brown, Coach Buxton.



Girls' Swimming and Diving
Head Coach: Ladd Downham
Front row: Adrianna Bell, Viviana Lagunas, Saniah Isabell, Angela Pejovski, Marisol Ramires, Laquiana Jones, Samantha Martines, Ebonie Ali; Second row: Lavana VanCuren, Coach Jeremy Boyer, Coach Sara Stallings, Coach Downham, De'Jah Jones, Brookelyn Burks, Breonna Baggett, Janaye Thomas, Angela Terry; Back row: Jhonae Garmon, Joi Roche', Aliyah Anderson, Aracely Arteaga, Prysma Valdivia, Liane-Samone Chambers, Hannah Sawyer.



Wrestling

Coach: David Maldonado

Front row: Alicia Derr, Viridiana Carrillo, Martin Cruz, Juan Maldonado IV, Jordan Carey, Cameron Louthan, Alejandro Lopez, David Rosa, Michael De La Peña, Gabriel Ochoa, Anthony Lee, Carlos Avalos, Aaliyah Tapia, Cassandra Lopez; Second row: Courtney Wilson, Sasha Boone, Josiah Anderson, Antino Barnes Jr., Masayoshi Nangin, Kobe Williams, Miguel Martinez, Raymond Duque, Ah'ssur Ursery, James Davis, Moises Dias, Isaac Garcia, Emily DeCausemaker, Hailey Perryman; Third row: Coach David Maldonado, Coach Robert Maldonado, Coach Timothy Maldonado, Marvin White, Tyler Anderson, Jaylen Glass, Joshua Kirksey, Aaron Griggs, Jacob Covaciu, Dennis Weston, Malik Hoover, Brett Norton, Jaylen Taylor, Coach Paul Maldonado, Coach Gene Bierman; Fourth row: Brandon Lucero, Justin Ramsey, Aaron Corrales, Devin Pope, Drew Bailey, Marquis Thomas, Melvin Magee, Romeo Hoover, Matthew Mallon; Back row: Anthony Atria, Alexander Navarro, Joshua Benton, Tyjonn Lockett, Nathan Martin-Ellison, Ryan Atkins Frasier, Brandon Streck, Andrew Vander Woude, Shawn Streck.

Girls' Track

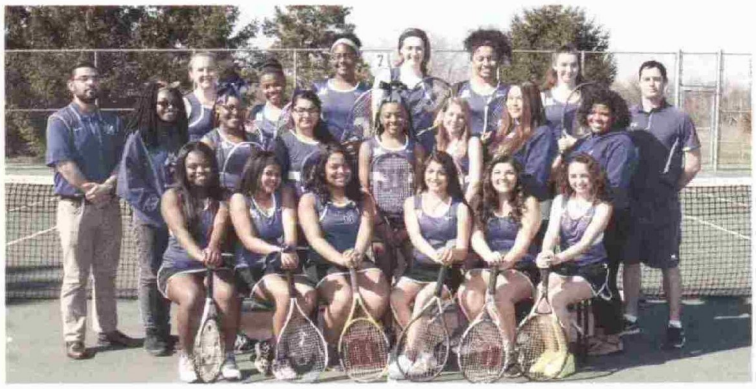
Head Coach: Kelly Kratz

Front row: Alicia Fields, Diamond Taher, Darielle Anderson, Tykia Jones, Meagen Wise, Amaya Butler, Joycelynn West, Christian Gridiron, Jasmine Beamon, Kayla Hudson; Second row: Miranda Cuozzo, Kennedy Johnson, Ceana Escalante, Shianne Woods, Destiny Hernandez, Brendea McNeal, Kiyah Walker, Marisol Ramirez, Aeriel Shelton; Third row: Akelah Gonzales, Rebecca Knight, Haley Funches, Payton McHenry, Donmeion Yates, Brianna Brown, Eryn Jenkins, Jamie Scott; Fourth row: Akilah Ware, Zarria Moss, Maritza Frasier, Natalie Dye, Makayla Scott, Brittanie Lewis, Tasha Neal, Janaye Thomas, Aniya McClendon; Fifth row: Coach Kratz, Casllie Scott, Bionca Sams, Ma'Kaela Patterson, Emily Lesich, Maya Griffin, Prysma Valdivia, Aliyah Anderson, Meagan Thomas, Coach Christopher Richardson; Back row: Coach Mike Hoffman, Coach Tiara Simpson, Torian Bryant, Jordan McDonald, Raegene Thomas, Alivia Ash, Ashley Ojo, Coach Brian Past, Coach Gary Lindsey.

Boys' Golf

Coach: Patti Tubbs

Front row: Jelani Gibson, Coach Tubbs, Angelo Strong, Elijah Royal, Kendall Johnson, Wesley Babilonia, Jose Fragoso III, Victor-Jacolbi Boyd; Back row: Kyrann Walker Jr., Marcus Norton, Gerald Smith Jr., Jason Bell, Jaylin Scott, Keith Rochefort Jr.



Girls' Tennis

Coach: Stoten Stofko

Front row: Janae Williams, Ashlyn Robinson, Kamri Smith, Mariah Jimenez, Jaslyn Martinez, Claribell Quinones; Second row: Kristyn Rogers, Madison Bullock, Illaha Abdul, Allure Calhoun, Katelyn Vinson, Alexus Palomo, JaDavia Gavin; Back row: Assistant Coach Najeb Arifee, Bethany Rochefort, Serena Robertson, Nijaia Jones, Isobel Collins, Erika McClinton, Emily DeCausemaker, Coach Stofko.

Varsity Softball
Coach: Kristina Sides
Front row: Jasmine Sanders, Jennifer Villanueva, Emily Glover, Arianne Conn, Nazaraih Perez, Viridiana Carrillo; Second row: Assistant Coach Bill Kornacki, Shawn Streck, Tammiah Ingram, Miracle Akins, Xavier King, Coach Sides; Back row: Kristin McGee, McKinzie Dalton, Makayla Pearson, Alexis Ramos, Bailey Rapavi.

Junior Varsity Softball
Coach: Adam Fricke
Front row: Linyhia Meux-Miller, TaiYauna Howard, Kennedy Tanniehill, Angenae Grady, Jamia Harris; Back row: Assistant Coach Amber Welsh, Paige Wood, Renee Boseman, Mi-Chae' Smith, Alexis Sanchez, Dana Cheairs, Marissa Ramos, Coach Fricke.

Varsity Baseball
Head Coach: Paul Wirts
Front Row: Ayron Williams, Jonathan Sutherland, Omar Ramirez Jr., Bradlee Ronning, Chad Deline, Carlos Perez; Second Row: Carlos Mejia, Brandon Lucero, Matthew Mallon, Thomas Hansbury III, James Sutherland III, Darius Kendall; Back Row: Michael Pearson, Brendon Bistrican, Assistant Coach Brian Parker, Coach Wirts, Assistant Coach Connor Buxton, Matthew Meux.

Junior Varsity Baseball
Head Coach: Mike Siwy
Front row: Elijah Reid, Juan Maldonado IV, Reginald Carter III, Jacob McDonald, Raymond Span; Second row: Sven Strom, Jacob Weber, Antoine King, Ryan Smith, Maxwell Govert, Israel Woods Jr.; Back row: Anthony Atria, Melvin Magee, Assistant Coach Salvador Aguilar, Ramon Garcia-Valle, Maurice Weaver Jr.

Boys' Track
Head Coach: Patrick Coffey
Front row: Tylum Moncreace, Alec Edwards, Marcos Hernandes, Gabriel Ochoa, Xavier Martines-Scott, Qwentin Richmond; Second row: David Walls, Nigel Taylor, Masayoshi Nangin, Joshua Morando, Antoine Johnson Jr., Ivan Cook Jr.; Third row: Wesley Davis Jr., Jared Howard, Blake Turley, Ari Stone-Tekeste; Fourth row: Aubin Robinson, Xavier Griffin, Kejuan Thomas, Thomas Jones, Justin Bhe, Nicholas Owens, Ja'various Dixon, Devin Pope, Hayden Harmon; Fifth row: Nicholas Doneski, Kody Parkham, Adam Serros, Anthony Banks, Chas Sales, Joseph Aponte, Brett Norton, Jordan Young; Sixth row: Zyriek Nickson, Lamonteon Williams, Isaiah Davis, Anthony Sams Jr., Alfred Stubbs III, Drew Bailey, Jay'lon Gordon; Seventh row: Coach Luis Lopez, Jaison Brooks, Kenyatta Smith, Matthew Thompson, Justus Alexander, Anthony Tucker Jr., JoRale Wheeler, Daijon Gray, Alphonso Blackwell III; Back row: Coach Gary Lindsey, Coach Coffey, D'Amani Cundiff, Bryson Jenkins, Nakia Chinn Jr., Sean Roche', Kameron Jackson, Rackesh Ragoo, Darryl Robinson, Coach Anthony Curry, Coach Mike Hoffman, Coach Brian Past.

We posed

"Sophomore year was cool but also very stressful. I made a lot of friends, but at the same time it was hard to keep my grades up because I play sports and I have a job."
Sophomore Carlos Avalos

"Physics A was hard because I didn't understand anything. It was too much."
Junior Darrel Glass II

"My favorite memory was the Senior-Faculty Game, even though I'm not a senior. It was nice to see everyone come together as one."
Sophomore Dana Cheairs

"My junior Homecoming was so fun, and cheerleading was fun, too. Basically, all my sports."
Junior Ivori Fulton

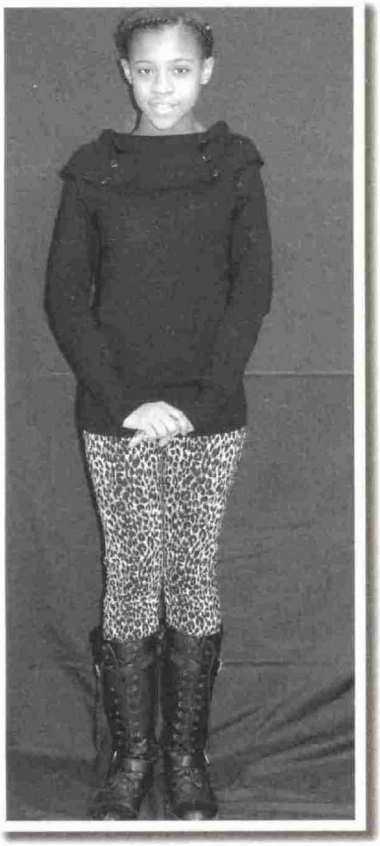
"Pre-Cal B was hard. It was very fast-paced. We'd start a new lesson every day."
Junior Taylor Upshaw

"Meeting new people and playing football were my favorite part of freshman year."
Freshman Keyshawn Lackey

"My experiences with new teachers were an adventure. Algebra was hard. My teacher during second trimester wasn't all that great, but third trimester is better."
Sophomore Shaina Williams

Juniors during the Senior-Faculty Basketball Game

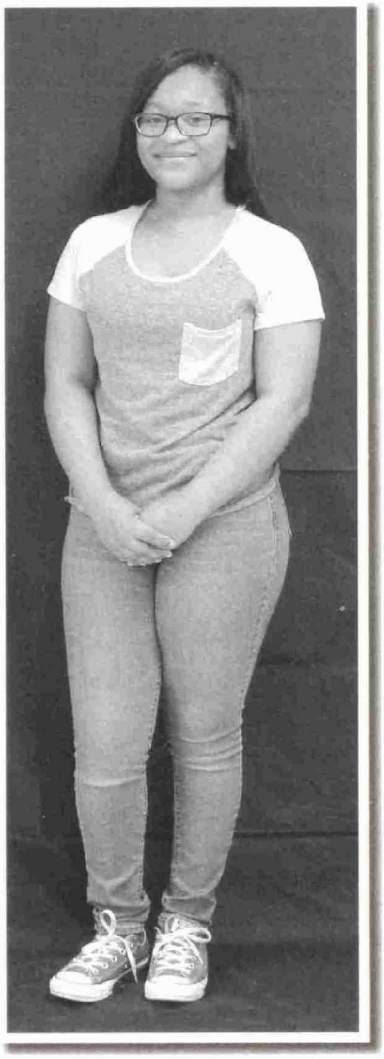
WE CAME



Treasurer
Anijah Gilbert

Why did you run for treasurer?
"I decided to run because I believe the class should have someone their age who can listen to them and who is a trustworthy person."

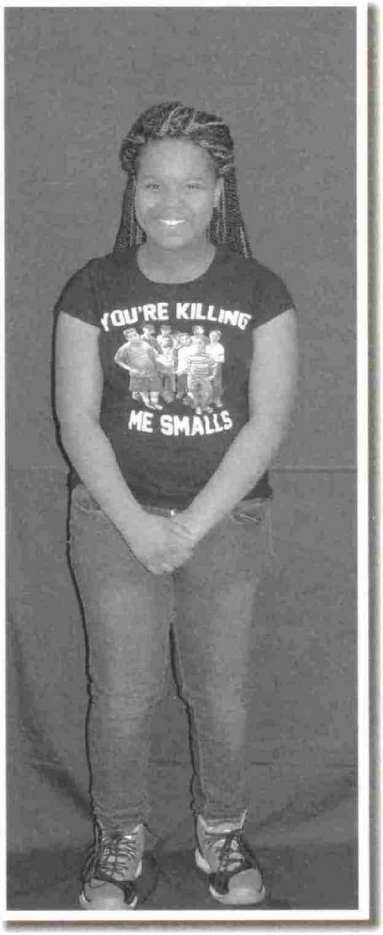
What is your favorite food?
"Mac and cheese because it tastes so good and makes me feel better."



President
Najalynn Chandler

What do you want to accomplish in office?
"I want to raise enough money to do everything we want to do in our senior year."

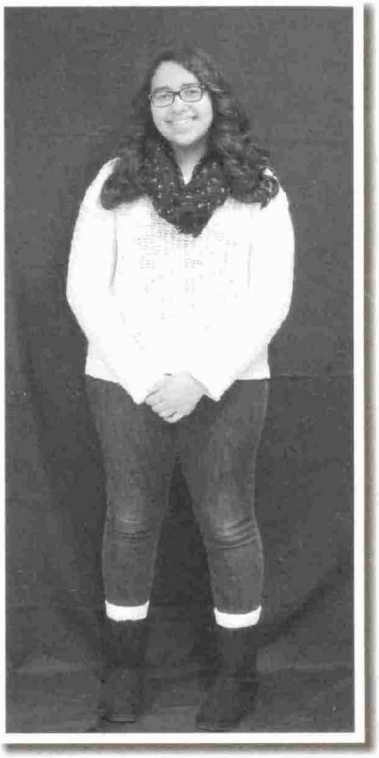
Fun Fact:
"I can sing."



Vice President
Moriah Jones

How do you assist the president?
"Whenever the president has an idea, I ask our class if they like it or not."

What are you afraid of?
"I have no fears."

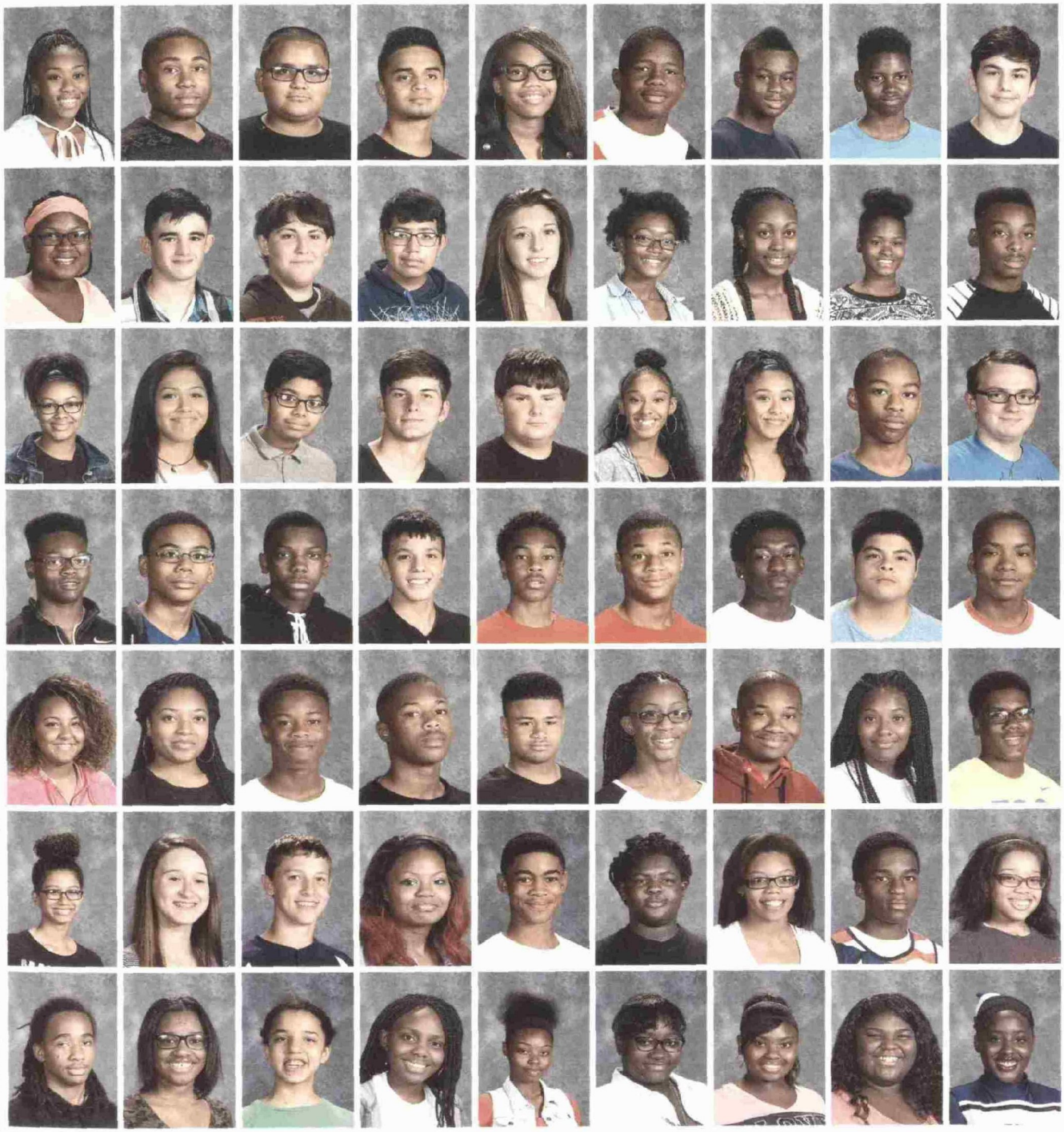


Secretary
Reem Sulieman

What is the most important thing about being a secretary?
"I make sure the president represents the school well and I write her speeches."

What is your favorite movie?
"'Selma' because it's so accurate about what happened and it appeals to your emotional side."

Class of 2019



Jakailyn Aaron
Ali Abdullah Jr.
Jordan Abeyta
Nathan Acosta
Alysa Adams
Dakari Alford
Josiah Alford
De'Andre Alford Jr.
Majed Ali

Di'Mond Alston
Vincente Altieri
Nicolas Ambrose
Sebastian Anda
Aliyah Anderson
Darielle Anderson
Diavian Anderson
India Anderson
Isaiah Annan

Madisyn Armstrong
Araceely Arteaga
Bilal Asghar
Anthony Atria
Michael Austin
Amya Aviles
Arianna Aviles
William Ayers Jr.
Travis Babbitt

Drew Bailey
Khari Baker
Rishard Balkcom
Tyson Ballard
Darryon Bandy
Da'Vante Banks
Darion Barber
Jose Barboza Garcia
Cortez Battle

Chyelle Baylor
Laya Beatty
Roshaud Bell
Roderick Bell Jr.
Joshua Benton
Makayla Berry
Gordon Biffle III
Sabrina Blacks
Miller Blackwell IV

Scarlett Blanco
Alyssa Blondet
Gracen Boatwright
Sasha Boone
Amari Bourne
Shakur Brewer
Deja Brincr
Erion Brinson
Marissa Broom

Cour Voisi Browa
Diamond Brown
Jessica Brown
Nyah Brown
Kaila Buggs
Melanie Bunkley
Brookelyn Burks
Ajanae Burley
Amaya Butler

D'Myrion Butler
Imani Butts
Dahjanee Bynum
Angelica Cabello
Elijah Camargo
Da'Quinae Campbell
Tavia Campbell
Jordan Camper
Joe Campos Jr.

Barbara Carbajal
Jordan Carey
Vanessa Carrillo-Ramos
Annie Castleberry
Mikael Chambers
Mikey Chambers
Mario Chambers Jr.
Najalynn Chandler
Qwamaine Chandler

Cameron Chenault
Michonn Cherry
Angelina Clark
Davon Clark
Nialah Clay
Aelunte' Collins
Keenan Collins
Jonathan Collins II
Caliyah Cooper

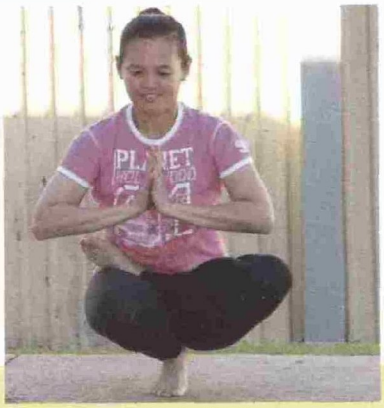
Davion Cooper
Elisha Cooper
Nicholas Cosby Jr.
Aniyah Cox
Reality Cramer
Rosharia Crawford
Jasmin Creal
Richard Crook
Jamala Crosby

Jontrell Crowder
Michael Croy Jr.
Arri'Qua Crump
Crystal Cruse
Chyna Cruz
Leilani Cruz
Martin Cruz
Maximus Curry
SaSha Dailey

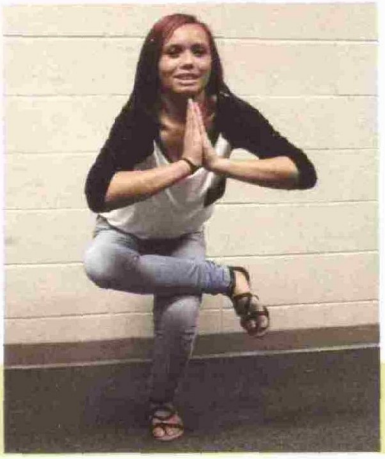
Andrew Dalton Jr.
Raymond Davila Jr.
Daevon Davis
Isis Davis
Jai'la Davis
Madyson Davis
Miles Davis
Shedrick Davis
Wesley Davis Jr.

Shareef Dawson Jr.
Jeremy Dean
Stephanie Del Real
Diego DeLa Cruz
Jalin Delaney
Michael Diaz
Sebastian Diaz
Jaylah Dix
Jacob Dockins

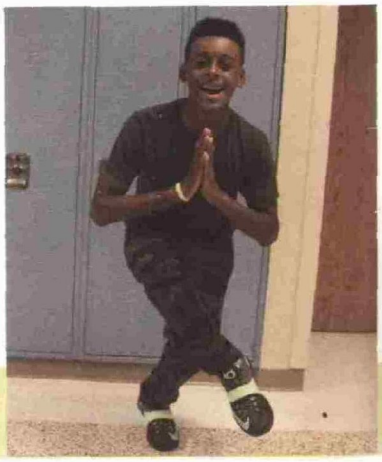
Yoga Challenge



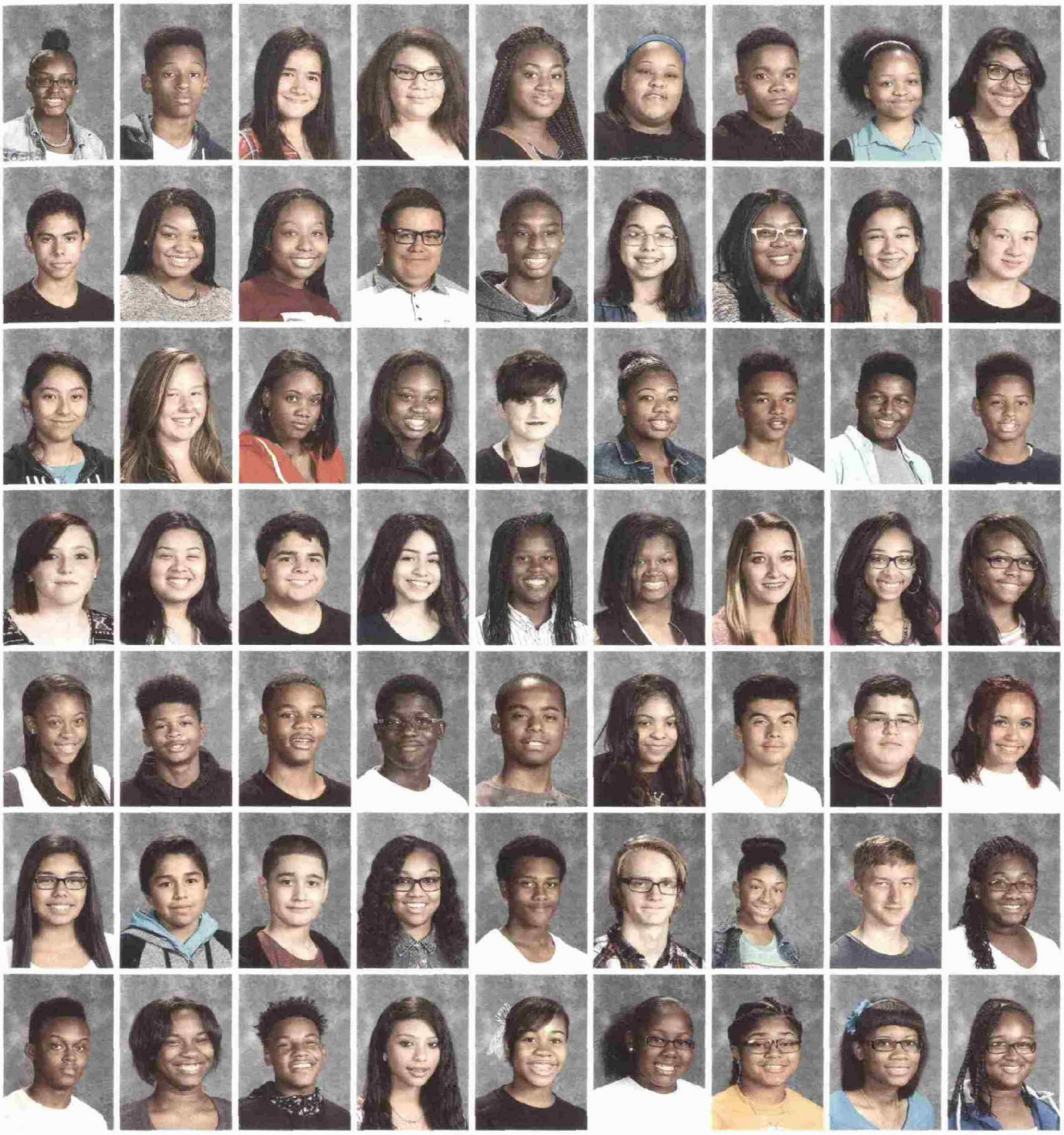
In prayer position, Lai-Lynn Bluethmann of the Yoga Room in Crown Point demonstrates a toe stand.



Vanessa Gomes



Cameron Wright



Journey Donegan
Larelle Dow Jr.
Diana Drake
Juanita Drake
Mariam Duke
Savona Dukes
Justin Edgeston
Aniya Edwards
Alianna Encinas

David Estefania
Jada Evans
Jordan Evans
Giovani Feliciano
Ernest Ferguson
Alexa Fernandez
Naomi Fields
Cheyenne Figueroa
Brooke Finch

Jacqueline Flores
Brooklyn Ford
Teanna Ford
Tayleesha Fowler
Virginia Frazier
Tiarah Freeman
William Fulton III
Michael Gaines Jr.
Christon Galbreath

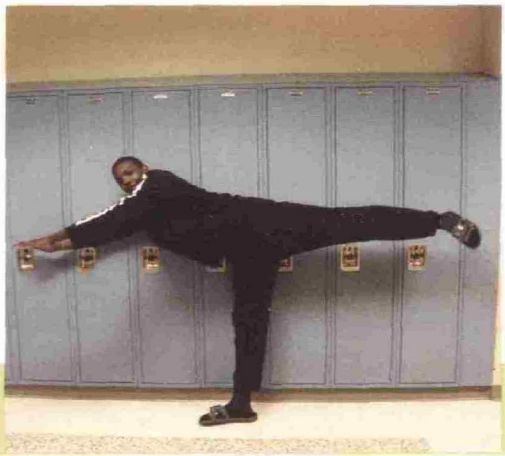
Iris Galvan
Destiny Garcia
Izaac Garcia
Sandra Garcia
Eelecia Garron
JaDavia Gavin
Brandi Geminder
Tamia Gholson
Kha'Deidra Gilbert

Tatiana Gilbert
Earskin Gildon IV
Kevon Gill
Jaylen Glass
Alex Glover
Amber Glover
Julian Gomez
Oscar Gomez
Vanessa Gomez

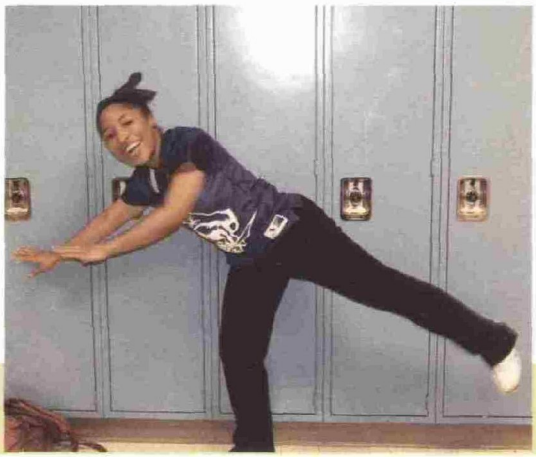
Natalia Gonzales
Tomas Gonzalez
Caleb Goodman
Angenae Grady
Daijon Gray
Benjamin Green
Danijah Green
Justin Green
Brittney Greer

Marcell Greer Jr.
Gia Gridiron
Marc Guerrero
Melissa Gutierrez
Clarke Halliburton
Jade Hamilton
Courtny Hampton
Makayla Hampton
Miracole Hare

With arms pointed out, Lai-Lynn Bluethmann demonstrates the balancing stick.



Rishard Balkcom



Aliyah McLain

Jordan Harmon
Cassandra Harper
Jaleel Harris
Sierra Harris
Domineke Haymon
Jyllean Haymon
Adrian Hernandez
Daniel Hernandez
Giselle Hernandez

Marco Hernandez
Sofia Hernandez
Raina Hertl
Antwand Hickerson
Imani Hicks
Anjel Highbaugh
Charlese' Hill
Trinity Hobbs
Jae'da Hobson

Jordan Holmes
Sidney Holmes
Deshaun Hoover
Keith Hopkins
Azariah Horton
Shayla Houston
William Houston
Jared Howard
Tyvion Howard

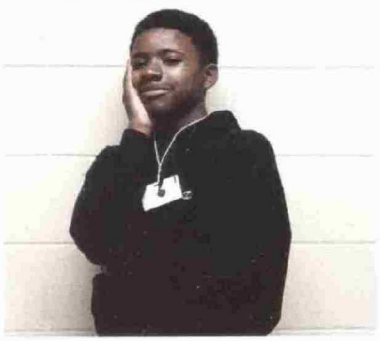
Devin Howell
Aleesha Hurt
Jimaris Hutch
Kyrylo Iesypenko
Saniah Isabell
Kyndel Ivie
Breaz Jackson
Diaviyon Jackson
Jewel Jackson

Jordan Jackson
Justin Jackson
Malia Jackson
Demond Jackson Jr.
Said Jaime
MaKala James
Lloyd James III
Erie January
Arianna Jarrett

Caleb Jarrett
Alayzia Jenkins
Amari Johnson
Anthony Johnson
Antoniya Johnson
Daria Johnson
DaVeyon Johnson
Jalen Johnson
Jayda Johnson

Jyra Johnson
Kennedy Johnson
Tacoya Johnson
Yashar Johnson
Andrea' Jones
Cameron Jones
Ceon Jones
Deon Jones
Isaiah Jones

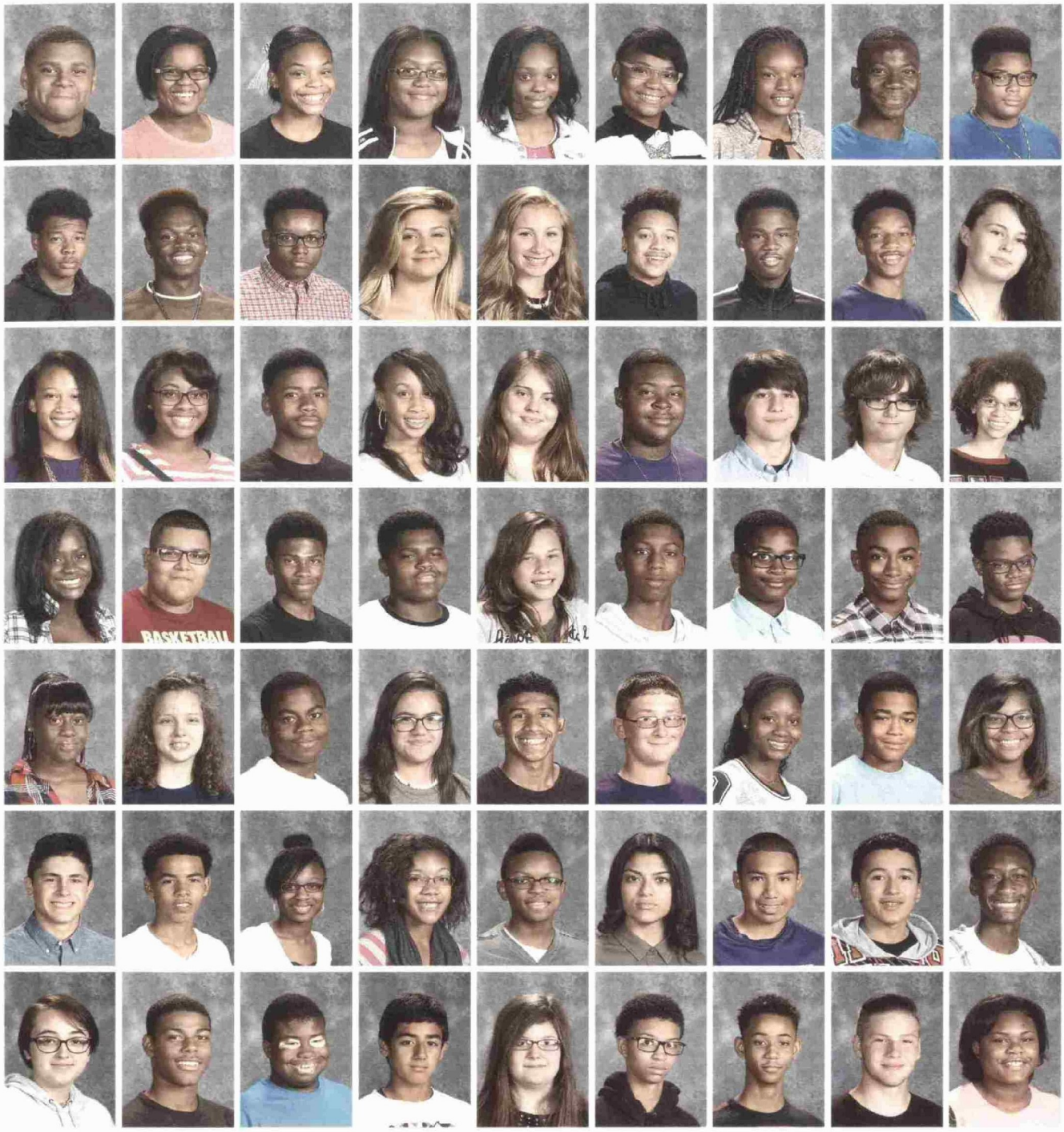
What scared you coming into high school?



"Tall people because they are all around me like towers, and I can't see over them." Antoine King

"Where everything was at, like the classes. Also, meeting new people and their attitudes." Crystal Cruse

"Meeting new people because I'm shy. Also, I didn't want to do a lot of homework." Davon Clark



Jalen Jones
Moriah Jones
Nadia Jones
Nijaia Jones
Nora Jones
Sirmatha Jones
Tykia Jones
Derrick Jones III
Keith Jones Jr.

Marshon Jones Jr.
Darius Jordan
Keiaueri Joseph
Alexandra Karbowski-Thompson
Hailey Karpen
Andrew Kechn
Abre'a Kemp
Eric Kendrick Jr.
Brianna Kenyon

Jermani' Keys
Jordan Kincade
Antoine King
Kaysea King
Madison King
Xavier King
Joshua Kirksey
Cameron La Belle
Jaden LaRue

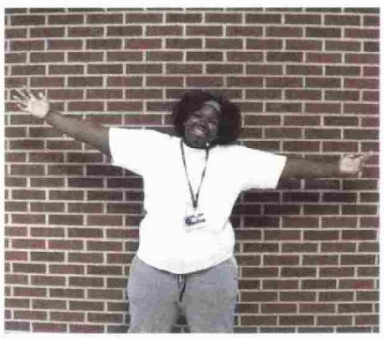
Jadyn Lawson
Daniel Ledesma
TYondae Lee
Ledarryl Lee Jr.
Angel LeGrand
Daniel Lewis
Jaden Lewis
Julian Lewis
Jevon Lindsey

Kamaria Lipson
Gabrelle Lobins
Alejandro Lopez
Sabrina Lopez
Paul Lopez Jr.
Cameron Louthan
Makayla Love
Donte Lowe Jr.
Talayah Lowery

Brandon Lucero
Romeo Luna
Tiana Lyles
Moriah Madkins
Amari Madry
Nina Maldonado
Juan Maldonado IV
Jessie Marquez
Donovan Marteen

Hailee Martin
Mattew Martin
Maurice Martin
Axel Martinez
Majel Martinez
Xavier Martinez-Scott
Jadon Mason
Isaiah Maynard
Aniya McClendon

"Nothing really, except if I saw somebody from another school I didn't like." Alicia Fields



"The seniors. They seemed big and scary." Charlese' Hill

"The scariest thing was meeting all the different people. Also, the teachers being more strict about things." Tyson Ballard

"Making sure my grades stay up." Taylor Mitchell

Madison McClendon-Moore
De'vonte McCollum
Kenosha McCullough
Jacob McDonald
Dia'monique McDuffie
Tamera McEwen
Tyrese McGee
Malcolm McGhee
Payton McHenry

Kayla McKinnon Bell
Aliyah McLain
Ronald McMullan
Kedric Means
Regina Meeker
Trayten Mikesell
Charles Milam III
Ervin Milan
Joshua Milla

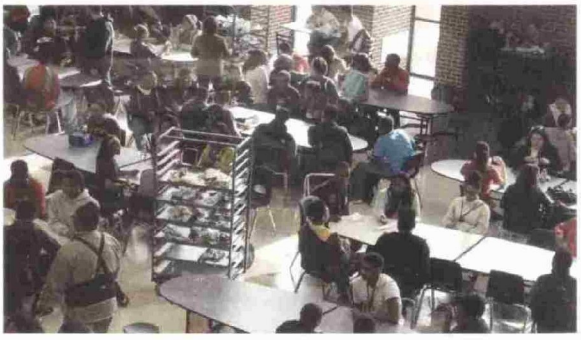
Rejon Miller
Jamal Milton Jr.
Shamari Mitchell
Taylor Mitchell
Michael Mitchell Jr.
Nikola Mitich
Lauren Moody
Jeremiah Moore
Kaliyah Moore

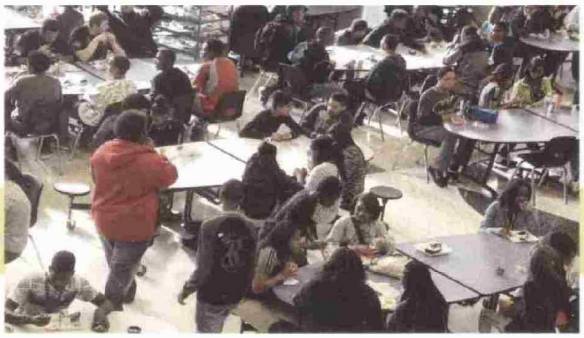
Armand Morris
Kendra Morris
Latoria Moss
Maryam Muhammad
Jordan Munchenburg
Masayoshi Nangin
Aubrey Neal
Tasha Neal
Kylah Nicholson

Janae Noble
Symone Norman
Jaden Norris
Gabriel Ochoa
Kemi Oduneye
Alyssia Ornelas
Brian Otis Jr.
Edward Owens II
Antonisha Paine

Alexus Palomo
Kayla Parkham
Deep Patel
Samaria Patrick
Samora Patrick
Ma'Kaela Patterson
Klimentina Pejovski
Searlett Peralta
Jailene Perez

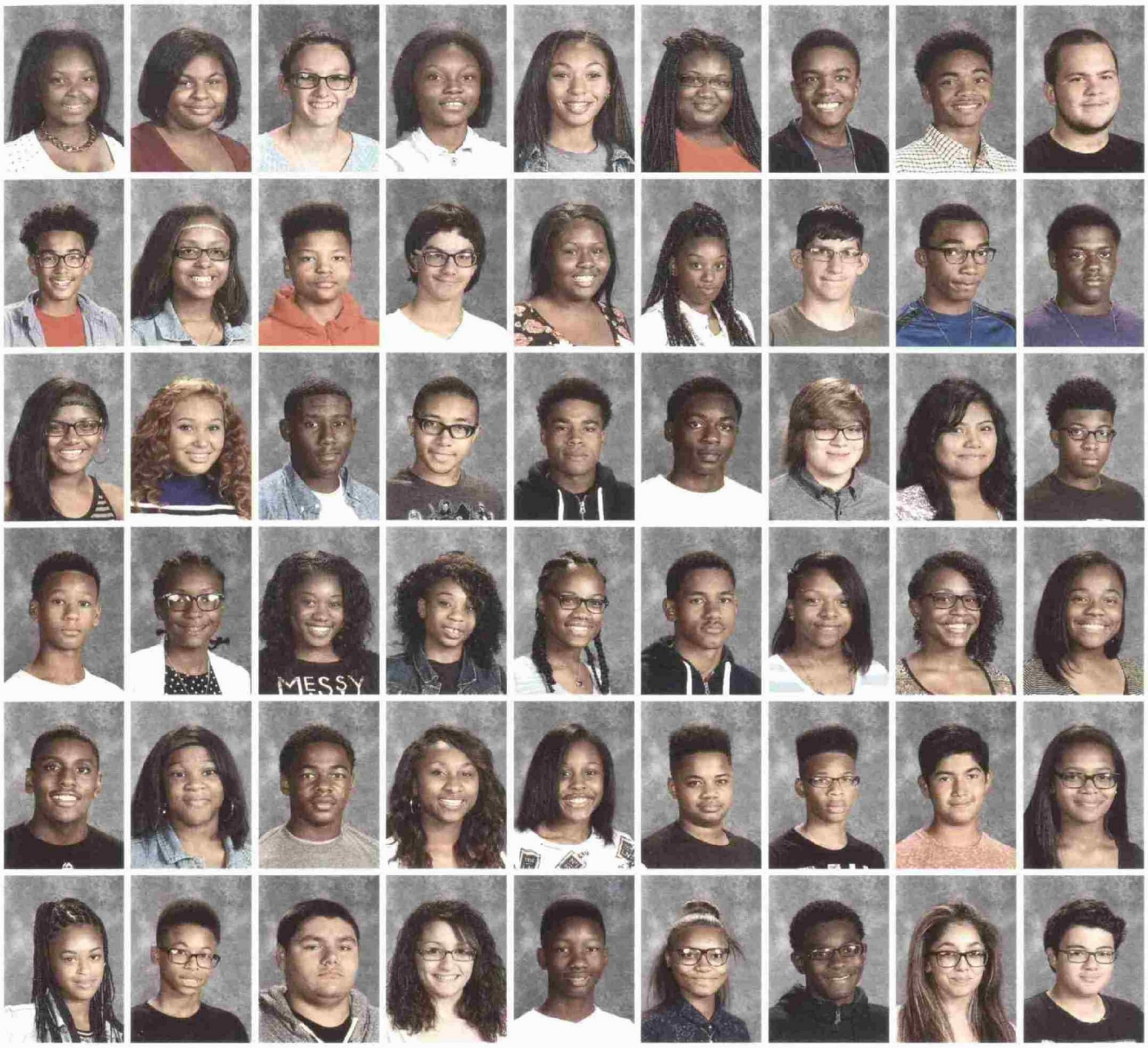
Where's Waldo?





Find:

1. Payton McHenry
2. Devione Smith
3. Bobby Walton III
4. Said Jaime



Alejza Perkins
Ashyah Perry
Hailey Perryman
Kaylin Peterson
Kaniyah Pharms
Jasmin Phillips
Le'Brone Phillips
Dameon Pinkins
Christopher Pole

Devin Pope
Maria Pratt
Keith Price II
Joshua Prine
Amari Pryor
Bre'Ana Quarles
Joshua Raddatz
Rackesh Ragoo
Justen Ramsey

Caylin Randall
Bailey Rapavi
Jalen Ray
Isaiah Rayburn
Dejon Readus
Malcolm Reese
Lucas Reinhart
Elizabeth Reyes
Myles Reynolds

Curtis Rias II
Lynia Richardson
Diabolique Ridle
Ariana Riley
Tamila Riley
Javier Rivera
Kayla Roberson
Cheyenne Roberts
Serena Robertson

Alonzo Robins
Alexis Robinson
Aubin Robinson
Britney Robinson
Chanel Robinson
Jarred Robinson
Jaylen Robinson
Kevin Robles Urena
Joi Roche'

Angel Rodgers
Robert Rodgers Jr.
Nicolas Rodriguez
Serena Roldan
Arieus Ross
Kristah Royster
Lavari Ruffin
Emily Ruiz
Ivan Sahagun

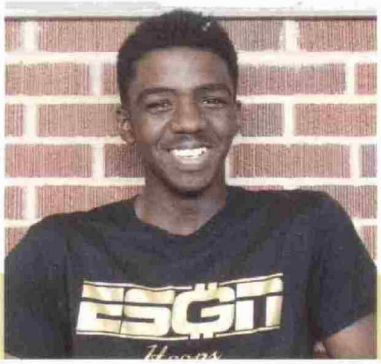
Did you get lost on your first day?

66% said yes

34% said no

"No, I didn't get lost because my cousin, Victoria Terry, showed me around, so I basically knew where to go." Jae'da Hobson

"Yes, my class was in the main building and I couldn't find my classroom, and there were a lot of upperclassman, which was scary." Edward Owens



Emilio Salas
Isatou Samba
Bionca Sams
Aaron Samuels
Annalise Saul
Joseph Scott
Makayla Scott
Nina Scott
Taylor Scott

Zoe Sease
Kristen Semmes
Carly Sheets
Crystal Shelby
Blessed Shelton
Tyler Shepherd
Aleni Shomo
Aaron Short
Demetrian Shorter

Luke Shufford Jr.
Nicholis Simmons
Tremell Sinclair Jr.
Mason Skidmore
Alexis Smith
Christopher Smith
Christopher Smith
Devione Smith
Geanna Smith

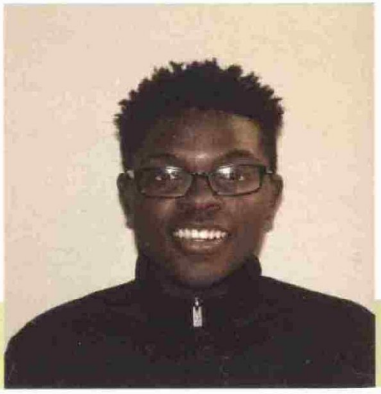
Isaiah Smith
Jered Smith
Jeremy Smith
Joenathan Smith
Taijah Smith
Bryan Sobczak
Dylan Sotak
Kimberly Sotak
SanTana Southall

Hanna Stevens
Olivia Stevens
Letrese Steverson
Kiarra Stewart
Brook Stone
Sven Strom
Labaron Strongs Jr.
Kenneth Stubblefield
Reem Sulieman

Timothy Sunny
Tyrese Surney
Jaylen Suttles
Marcellus Swain
Anthony Swims
Jairus Sykes
Jazmine Sylvestal
Messiah Talley
Maria Tan

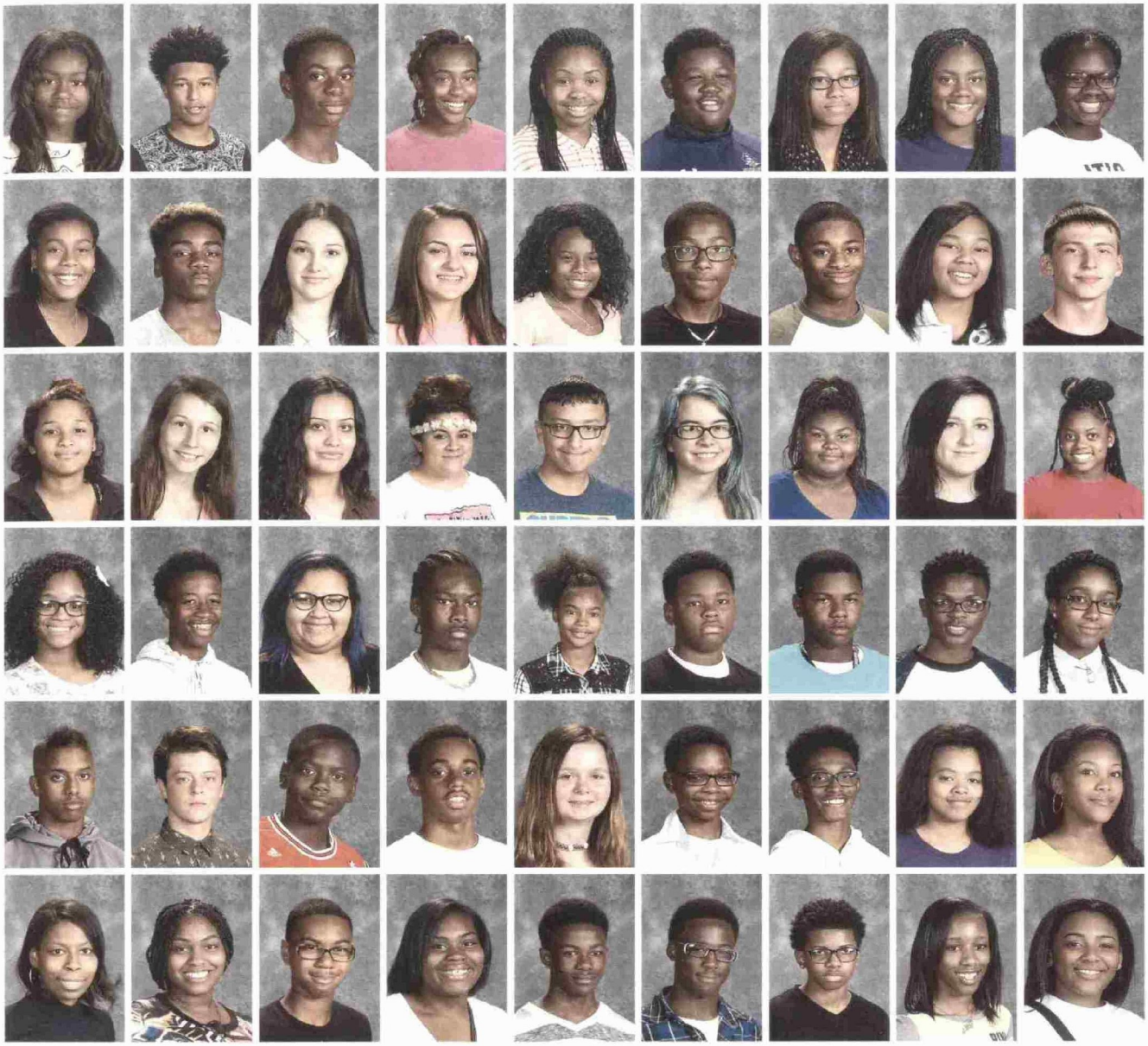
Was high school what you expected?

"No. It is my first time here in Merrillville High School, and I never thought it would be this big."
Dahjanee Byaum



"No. Everybody is too much to themselves. I was expecting more attention. I also thought it would be worse."
Robert Waterford

7 out of 20 said yes



Love Tanner
Jaylen Taylor
Nigel Taylor
Sariah Taylor
Leanne Tennione
Daveon Thomas
Janaye Thomas
Kelli Thomas
Lauryn Thomas

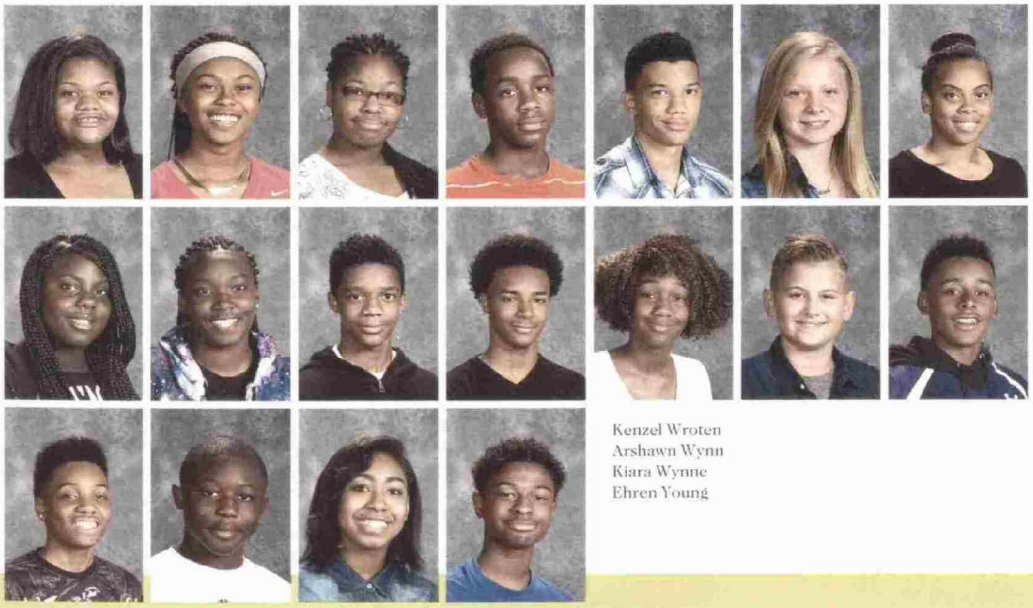
Acaiya Timmons
Deondre Todd
Angelina Trevino
Gwyneth Troupe
Kendra Turner
Michai Turner
Ronald Turner
Mont'eisha Underwood
Ryan Underwood

Daniella Uvalle
Lavana VanCuren
Jazmin Vargas
Victoria Vega
Justin Villanueva
Anna Vinson
Briany Wagner
Kailey Walaszek
Kiyah Walker

Camille Walls
Bobby Walton III
Brianna Ward
Quintonyo Ward
Kira Warren
Anthony Washington
Jehmiah Washington
Robert Waterford
Erryonne Watts

Maurice Weaver Jr.
Jacob Weber
Jamal Weston
Terrance Wheeler III
Ellecia White
Joseph White
Marvin White
Alexis Whiteside
A'Dajah Williams

Brianna Williams
Courtni Williams
Da'trell Williams
Haily Williams
Jawanza Williams
Kevon Williams
Kobe Williams
Nicole Williams
Tyanna Williams



Tiyzhane Williamson
Daiyanna Wilson
Jada Wingate
Mason Wolf
Dominique Wood
Paige Wood
Angelay Woods

Angelique Woods
Ronisha Woods
Tramone Woods
Traylen Woods
Colbie Word
Braden Worthington
Cameron Wright

Kenzel Wroten
Arshawn Wynn
Kiara Wynne
Ehren Young

Not Pictured

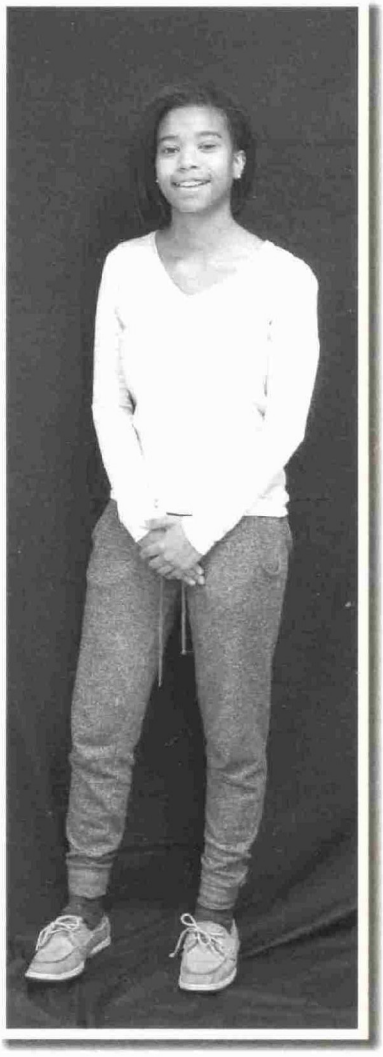
Myjae Armstrong
Damien Banjura
Charles Brown III
Kiaria Brown-Shaw
Steven Brumfield
Ka'Vion Cooks
Milan Ervin
Kimbreyona Harris
Kobe Holt
Jordan Hutchinson
Reggie Jackson
Ariaona Johnson
Andrea' Jones Jr.
Tronese Lacey
Alexis McCarthy
Margarita Rivera
Yancy Tyler Jr.
Kayla Warren
Damon Wheatly
Clifford Williams
Derel Williams

WE SAW

Tresurer
Madison Bullock

Why did you run for treasurer?
"I wanted to run for president, but I got scared at the last minute, so I ran for treasurer because it seemed easier."

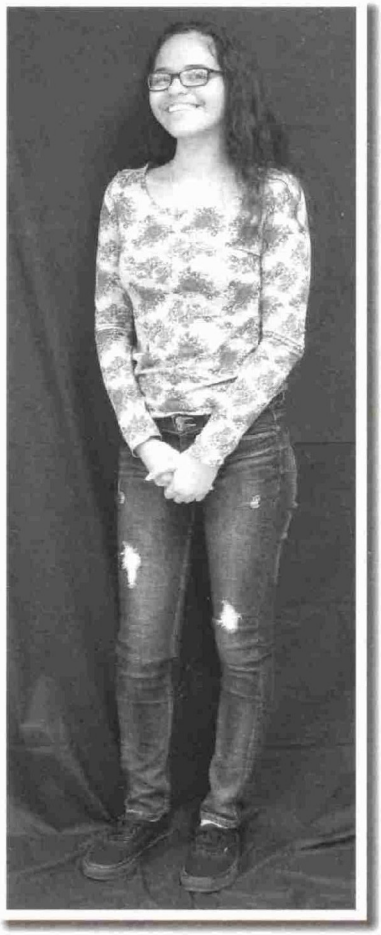
What is your favorite food?
"Tacos, because you can get them in a lot of different ways."



President
Kennedy Tanniehill

What do you want to accomplish in office?
"I want to bring all the students together and actually know each other."

Fun Fact:
"Being president isn't as hard as it sounds."



Vice President
Olivia Taylor

How do you assist the president?
"I help come up with the ideas and make future plans for the class."

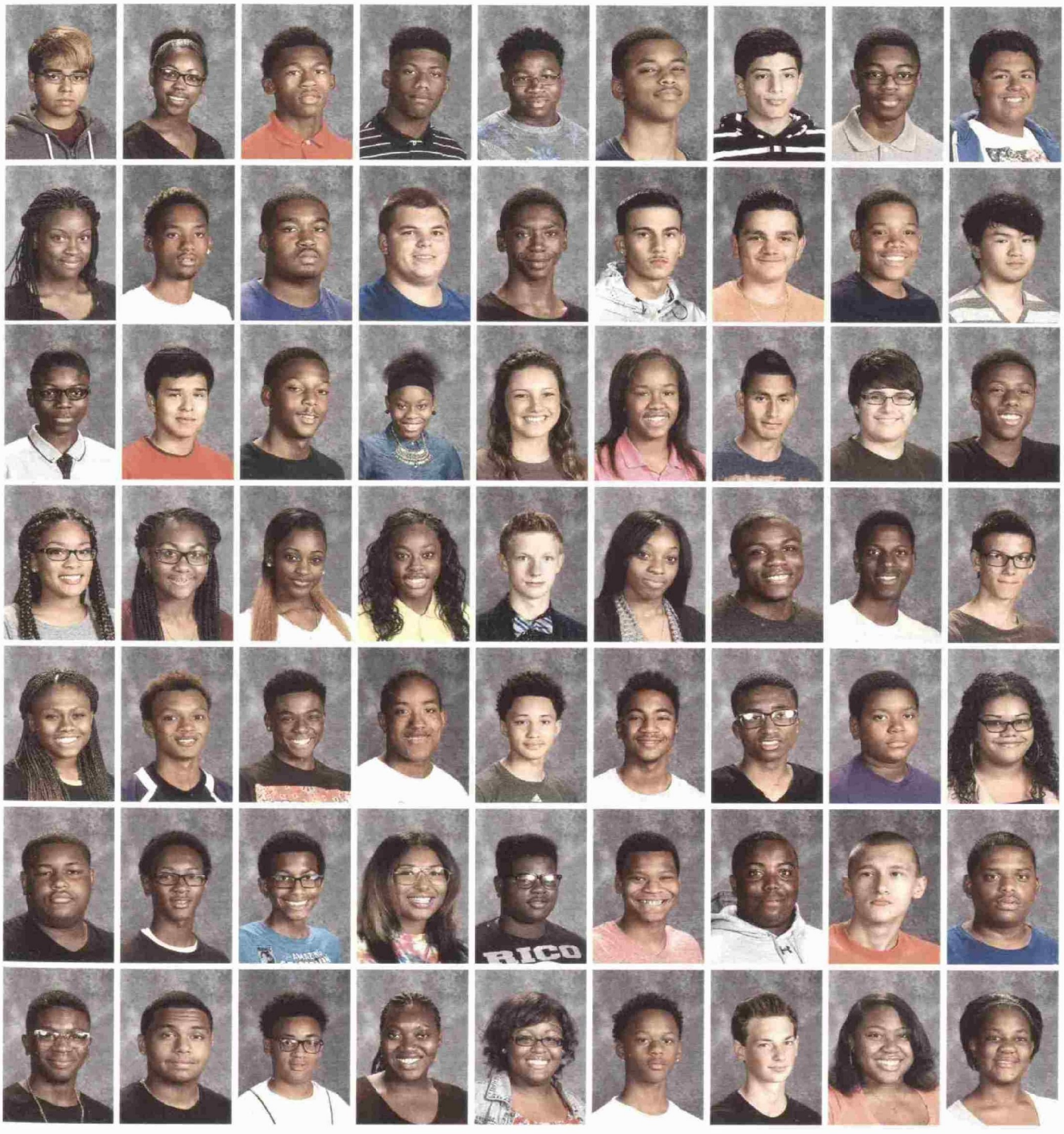
What are you scared of?
"Bugs, because they're nasty."

Secretary
Jada Edwards

What is the most important thing about being a secretary?
"Writing down all the meeting minutes is the most important."

What's your favorite movie?
"'Inside Out,' because it's so cute and funny."

Class of 2018



Adalberto Acosta
Cora'Taya Adams
Nolen Adams
Robert Adams
Thomas Adams
Aren Agee
Badea Ali
Matthew Alleyne
Jaime Alvarez II

Dionna Anderson
Jamal Anderson
Josiah Anderson
Tyler Anderson
Khamari Andrews
Joseph Aponte
Marcus Ashe
Ryan Atkins Frazier
Ferdinand Aton

Kevin Attah
Carlos Avalos
Jamari Averhart
Teaja Ayres
Taylor Ballard
Alanna Bankhead
Daniel Barajas
Keith Barnard
Antino Barnes Jr.

Skye Baso
Jordyn Bates
Jasmine Beamon
Jasmine Bell
Max Benkert
Robyn Berry
Paul Berry Jr.
Dominic Bethel
Justin Bhe

Cara Blanford
Airron Blissett
Jerek Boclair Jr.
Paul Bowens III
Christopher Bowman
Eugene Boyd Jr.
Christian Bracey
Noah Bradley
Airashaie Brooks

Antonio Brooks
Jaizon Brooks
D'Angelo Brown
Dajamori' Brown
Jamari Brown
Justin Brown
Keylian Brown
Ronald Brown
Trevon Brown

Tyler Brown
William Brumfield
Timotchy Bryant
Airika Buckley
Madison Bullock
Neddie Burks III
Dylan Burns
Deanna Burton
Coretta Bush

Wayan Caldwell
Allure Calhoun
Cayla Campbell
Courtney Campbell
Adrianna Carey
Daniel Carey
Juan Carrillo
Kiariah Carter
Reginald Carter III

Kevin Carter Jr.
Danielle Castaneda
Peter Castaneda
Lianna Celestin
Ronald Chandler Jr.
Armonn Chavez
Dana Chears
Maliq Cherry
Nakia Chinn Jr.

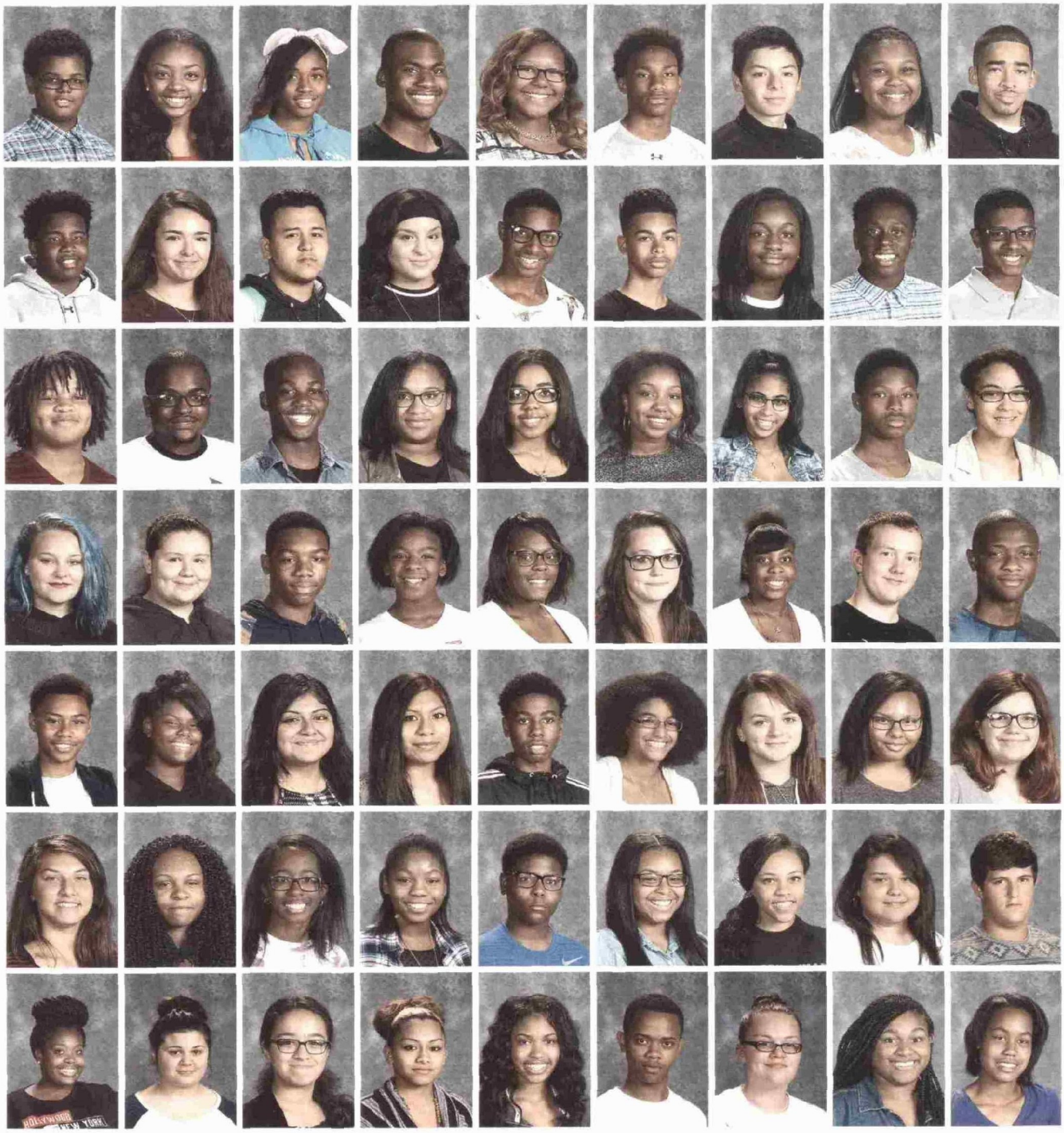
Daveontay Clark
Robert Clark
William Clay Jr.
Tamara Clements
Jaydah Cobb
Kennedy Cole
Angel Collins
Desmond Collins
Jasmine Collins

Emmalee Colwell
Rosario Contreras
DaVeon Coty
Chante Coulter
Qua'lyn Cowart
Savannah Cox
Deameka Crawford
Nicholas Cross
Terrance Cross Jr.

Jalen Crowder
Azjanae Cruz
Dulce Cuazitl
Elizabeth Cuazitl
D'Amani Cundiff
Miranda Cuozzo
McKaylah Dalton
Destiny Dantzler
Laura Daulton

Raeanne Davila
Amber Davis
Kinnedi Davis
Lacey Davis
Brandon Dawning
Briana Dean
Dasia Dean
Diana Del Real
Gregory Denisiuk

Monique Denton
Alicia Derr
Abigail Diaz
Ranea Dixon
Keana Dorris
De'Jour Drayton
Julia Ducret
Natalya Durham
Natalie Dye



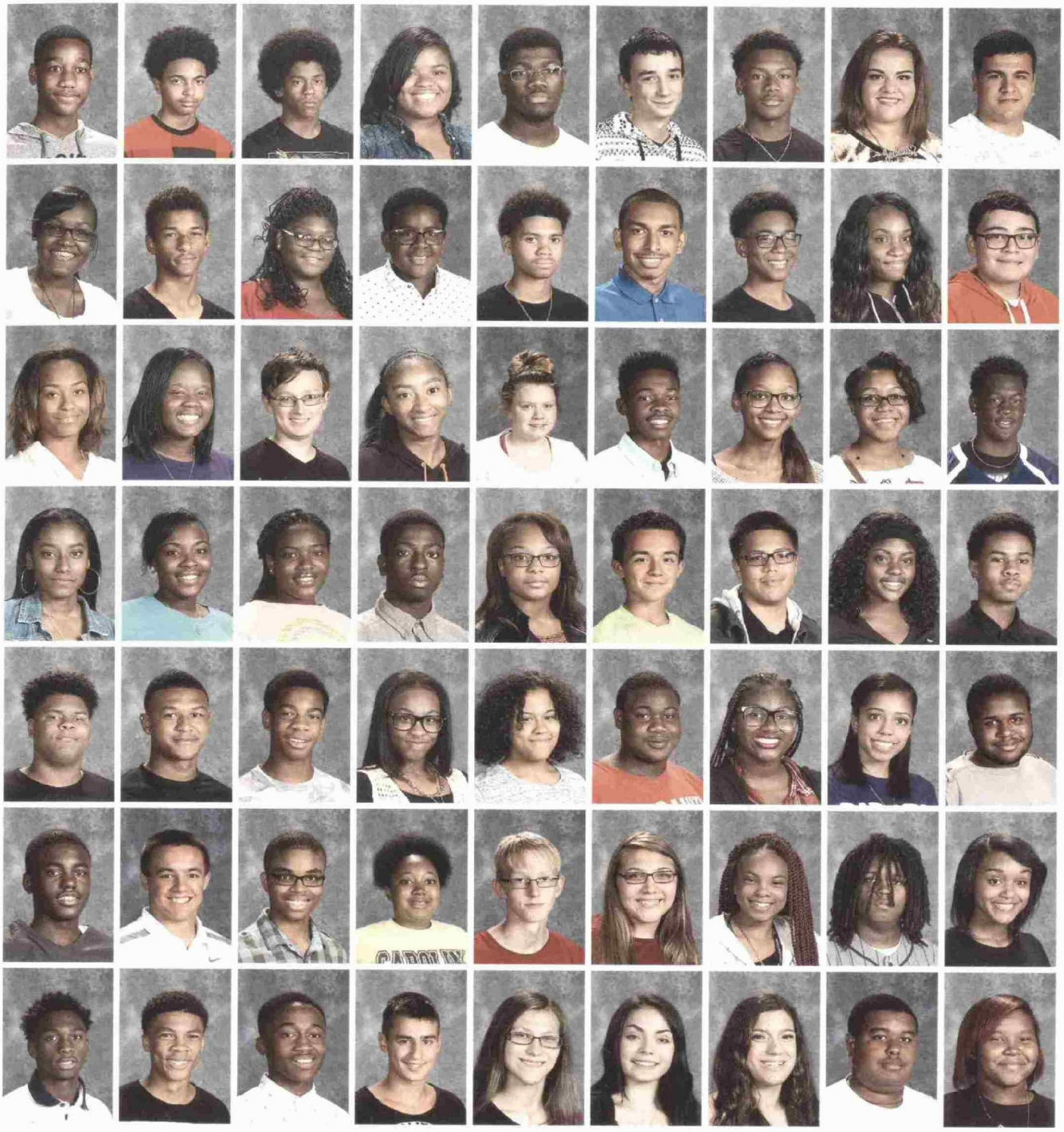
Do you prefer main cafeteria lunches or freshman cafeteria lunches? Or do you prefer to bring your lunch?

27 said main

15 said freshman

8 said bring own lunch

"Freshman lunch is better because their food is better tasting and the lines are shorter."
Taelor Hill



Nathan Dye
Romel Echarry II
Alec Edwards
Jada Edwards
Yantre Edwards
Joshua Ely
Davion Ervin-Poindexter
Felicia Estrada
Luis Estrada

Raven Ewing
Kadari Exson
Ayanna Felton
Bryan Fields
Cameron Figueroa
Wade Flournoy
Kameron Flowers
Kamryn Ford
Jose Fragoso III

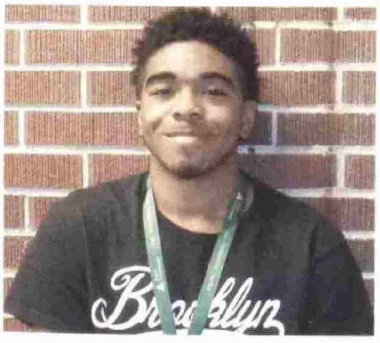
Maritza Frazier
Czaria Freeman
Cole Frey
Camille Fuller
Elizabeth Fuller
Tervoris Fuller
Nichole Gagliano
Te'Reyah Gaines
David Gaines Jr.

Aliyah Galliday
Jaylin Gamble
Jessica Gamble
Justin Gamble
Mariah Ganier
Jorge Gaona
Ramon Garcia-Valle
Jhonae Garmon
Cameron Garner

Dalajamane Garza
Jareques Gaston
Xavier Gibson
Kayln Gill
Ta-Tiana Gillis
Christian Glover
Mia Godfrey
Akelah Gonzalez
Nicholas Goodwin

Israell Gordon
Maxwell Govert
John Grace Jr.
Asia Gray
James Green
Treasure Green
Tyanna Green
Neiman Grier
Medina Griffin

Robert Griffin
Xavier Griffin
Aaron Griggs
Nicholas Groleau
Victoria Gromek
Brianna Grygar
Carly Gubitz
Edmund Gunn Jr.
Monique Guydon



"Main lunch is better because I can see all my upperclassmen friends and my wrestling teammates."
Ah'ssur Ursery

"I'd rather bring my own lunch to school because the food served at lunch isn't good. I enjoy bringing snacks from home."
Treasure Green

"I enjoy main lunch better because of the snack line."
Ke'leica Junigan

"Main lunch is better because there is more space to move around, and the food tastes better. Also, I enjoy buying ice cream from the snack line." Juanita McGee

Jamie Guzman
David Hagan Jr.
Akeem Hall
Jah'Moni Hamlet
Sa'Vion Hannah
Tori Hardin
Nautica Hardy
Hayden Harmon
Shelby Harmon

Marquise Harper
Jamia Harris
Khayla Harris
Marlon Harris
Starr Harris
Tierra Harris
Jaden Harrison
Tia Harrison
Danielle Hathaway

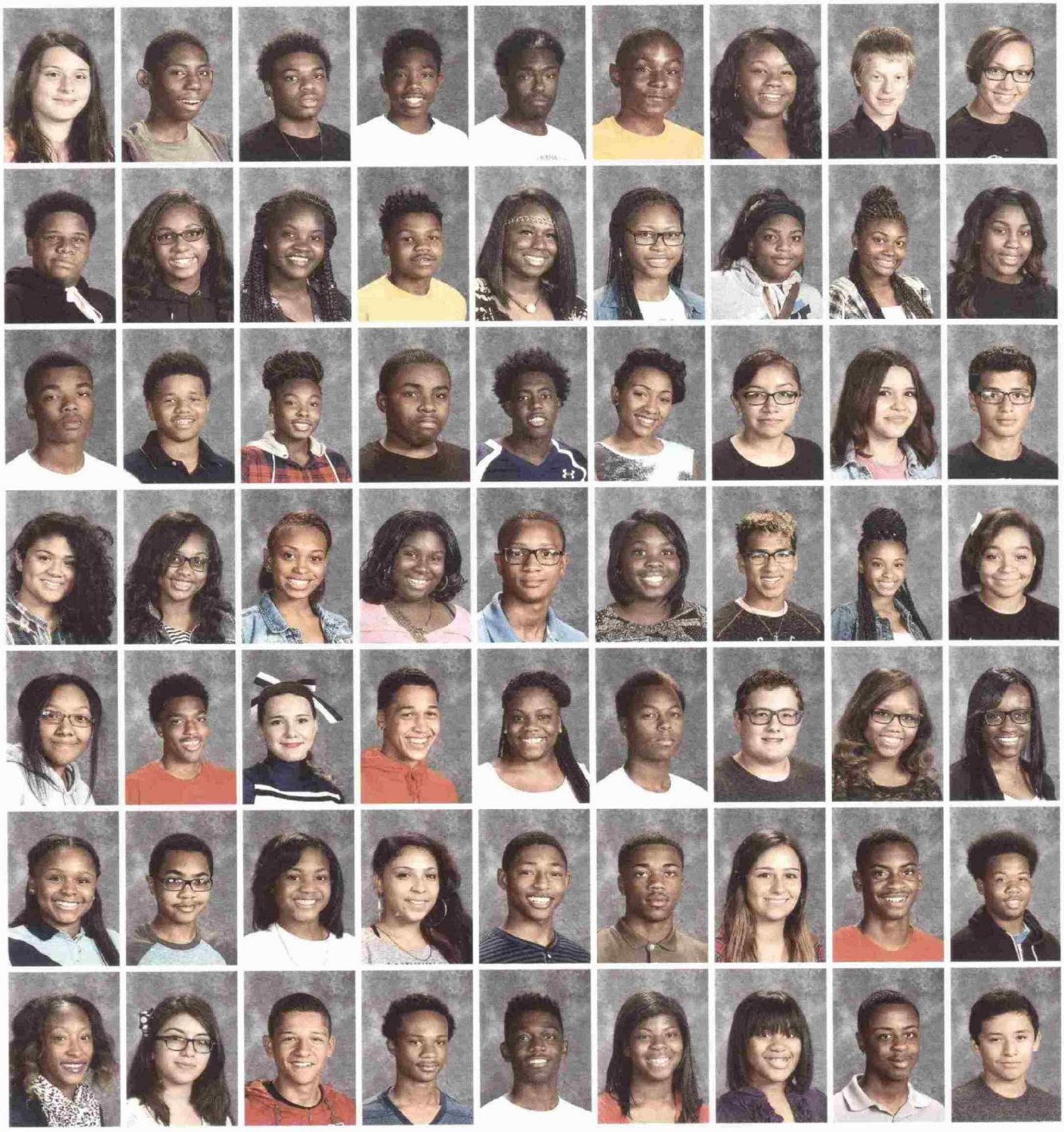
Antoine Hawkins
Marcus Hayes
Leandrea Heath
Joshua Henderson
Austin Hendricks
Cardalina Hernandez
Destiny Hernandez
Leslie Hernandez
Marcos Hernandez Mejia

Heather Herrera
Amara Hester
Timeah Hicks
Taelor Hill
Caleb Hiller
Leayah Hines
Justin Hinton
Dominique Holden
Nicole Hollowell

Atiya Holmes
Jaylon Holmes
Tori Holst
Malik Hoover
Shyann Hopson
Princeston Horton
Trenton Housler
TaiYauna Howard
Kayla Hudson

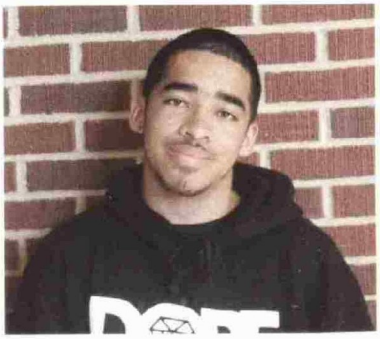
Jasmine Huff
Timothy Hughes
Alyssa Hunt
Adrianna Hurd
Trenton Hutch
James Ireland III
Cecilia Irizarry
Jaylin Jackson
Jerome Jackson

Sha'lynn James
Jasmine Jaramillo
Tyler Jasso
Elijah Jefferson
Bryson Jenkins
Cayla Jenkins
Elyssa Jenkins
Juwan Jenkins
Carlos Jimenez Jr.

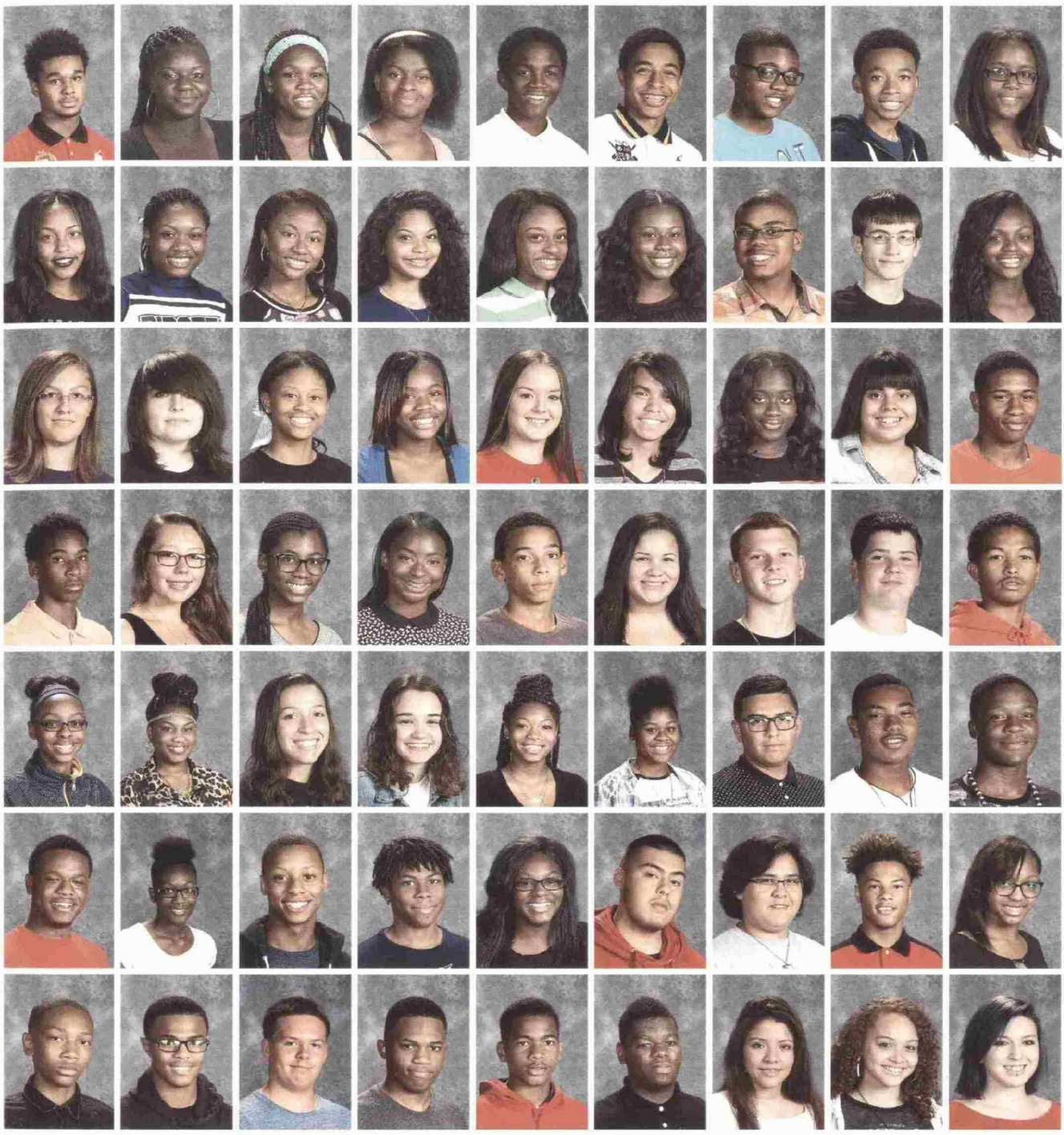


This one time...

"This one time, I went to Michigan Adventure Park and rode the rollercoasters all night long. It was a fun experience."
Damari Ramos



"This one time, I went to the Bahamas with my family and experienced the best food of my life."
Reginald Carter III



Isa Johnson
Jacqueline Johnson
Jada Johnson
Kaylah Johnson
Kendall Johnson
Antoine Johnson Jr.
Jovan Johnson Jr.
Kentrell Jolley
Alexis Jones

Brianna Jones
Kaylin Jones
Kiarra Jones
Laquiana Jones
Lyric Jones
Tiarra Jones
Westley Jordan
Patrick Joseph
Denae Joshua

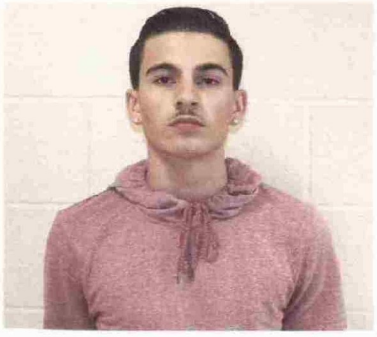
Kayla Josleyn
Sarah Juarez
Ke'leica Junigan
O'Sean Kelly-Williams
Sydney Kenner
Justin Kiel
Deawnna Kimble
Aaliyah King
Dwayne King

Kevon King
Autumn Kiser
Asha Kizer
Angelica Knox
Terrell Kopca
Viviana Lagunas
Cameron Lamb
Brad Lawrence II
Devian Leal

Danielle LeGrand
Shekinah Lenoir
Emily Lesich
Emma Lewandowski
Brittanie Lewis
Leah Lewis
Christian Licea
KeShawn Lilly
Tyjonn Lockett

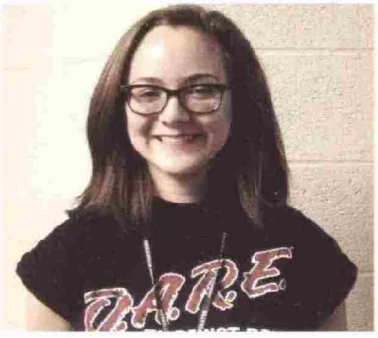
Eric Lomax
Najla Louis
Malik Love
Tajhere Lowery
Alexis Lumpkin
Adrian Luna
Gabriel Macapagal
Damaryon Mack
Taneeia Maelin

Javon Madkins
Melvin Magee
Eloy Maldonado
Raheim Manuel
Jeremiah Marshall
Camdoen Martin
Samantha Martinez
Jasmine Martinez-Santa
Tiffany Mason

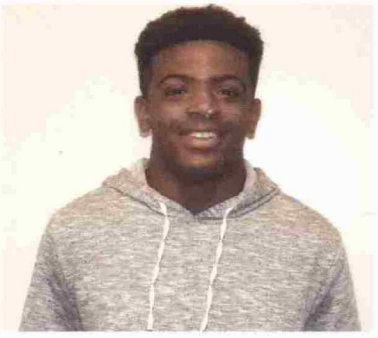


"This one time, when I was wrestling with my teammate, Alex Navarro, I ended up breaking his leg."
Joseph Aponte

"This one time, I scored the winning point during the volleyball game, and the Merrillville crowd went crazy cheering us on."
Emily Lesich



"This one time, my neighbor said hi to me and I said it back, but I realized he was talking to his daughter instead."
Molly Murphy



"This one time, when I got off the bus, I fell and everyone laughed at me."
Elijah Reid

Ramiyah Mayo
Mik'el Mays
Michael McCeader
George McClendon III
Tanea McEwen
Juanita McGee
Ryan McGee
Teresa McGee
Asia McLean

Ti'mair McMullan
Brendea McNeal
Cristian Mendoza
Leia Mesarch
Linyhia Meux-Miller
Zion Middlebrooks
Damione Miller
Kayla Miller
Tanazah Miller

Riste Mindev
Dijon Minnis
Anthony Minor
Tylum Moncreace
Kierra Moore
Christian Moorer
Crystn Morgan
Diamond Morris
Carrington Morse

Zaire Moss
Vasotti Mottley
Molly Murphy
Alexander Navarro
Ibra Ndiour
Henry Nelson
Ezekiel Nettles
Daniel Nevarez
Demetrio Nevarez

Zyriek Nickson
Joshua Noble
Mariah Nobles
Kyle Noonan
Brett Norton
Michail Nunn
Saehae Nunn
Syrrus Nunn
Joy Obong

Samantha Osborne
Keelan Outlar
Ethan Owens
De'Leon Palmer
Darrion Parker
Nickolas Parker
Jorge Parra Jr.
Malik Passmore
Bri'Yanna Pearson

Cecilia Pedroza
Angela Pejovski
Samantha Perea
Isaiah Perez
George Perosky
Damaris Perry
Tatiana Peters
Paul Pitts Jr.
Isaac Pole

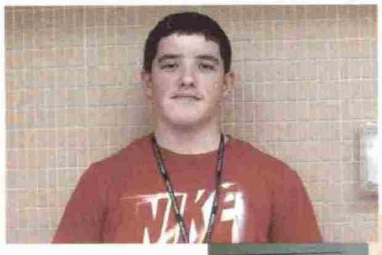
Would you rather?

Would you rather lose your best friend or significant other?

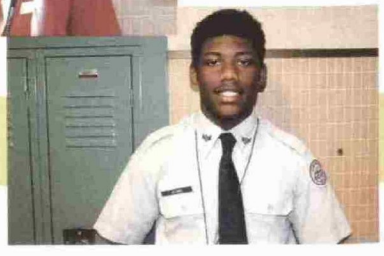
"Significant other."
Kayla Josleyn

"Best friend."
Lauren Pryle

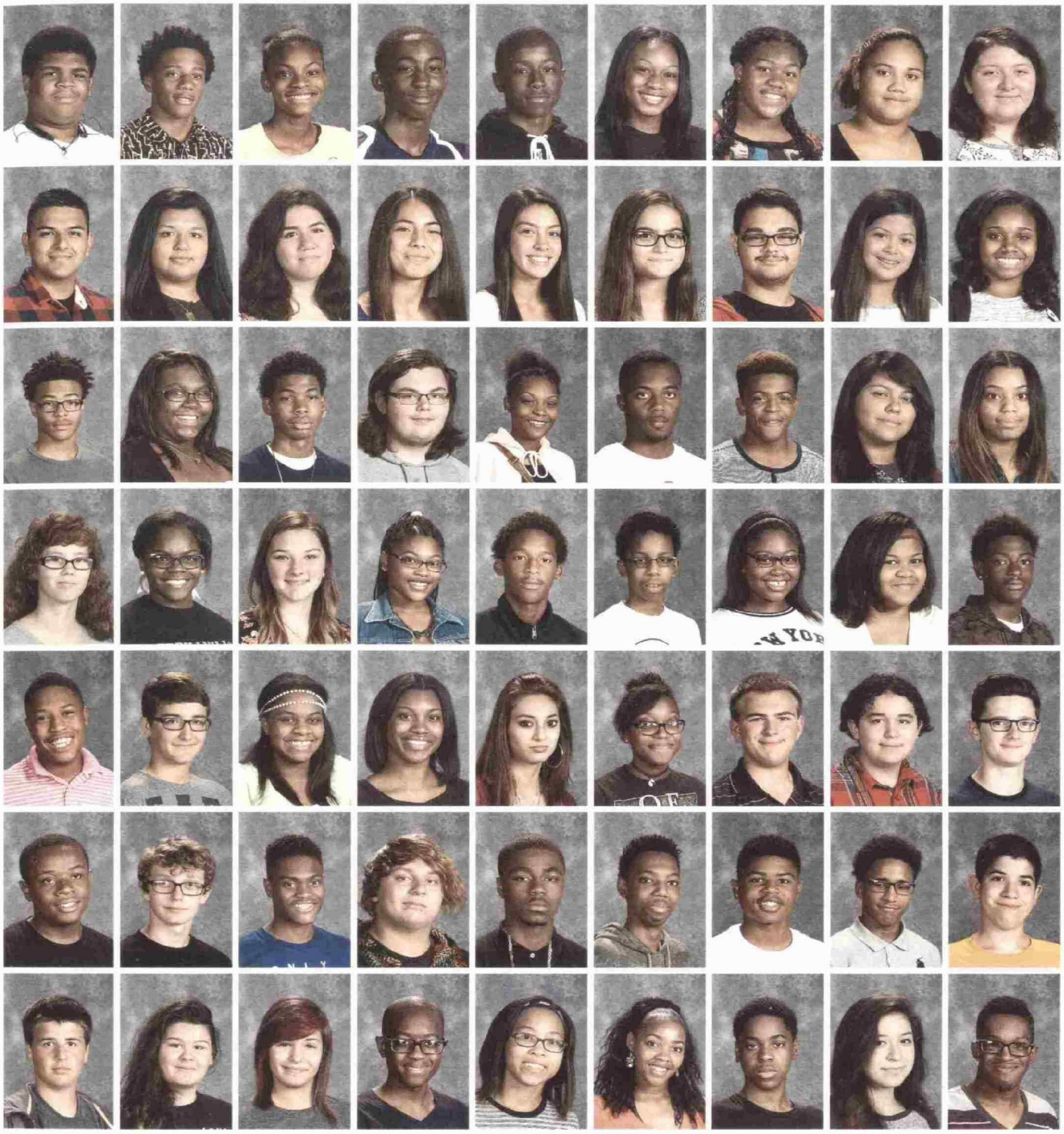
Would you rather have a job or play a sport?



"Play a sport."
Aaron Whitaker



"Have a job."
Robert Adams



Brandon Polk
Dontrell Pope
Ashley Porter
Khalil Porter
Timothy Porter IV
Monica Prince
Tori Pruitt
Lauren Pryle
Stephanie Puente

Edward Quintero
Cynthia Quiroz
Alicia Ramirez
Marisol Ramirez
Alexis Ramos
Damari Ramos
Eric Ramos
Marissa Ramos
La'Deja Rand

Denzel Randolph
Tanis Randolph
Kwante' Ray
Brandynn Reed
Kailynn Reed
Simeon Reed
Elijah Reid
Raquel Reyes
Nihayla Rias

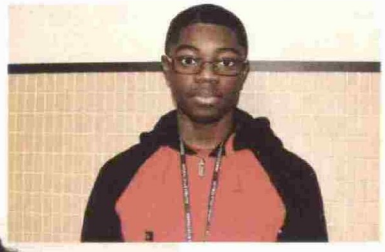
Cassandra Rich
Azaria Richardson
Adrianna Rietman
Elaycia Riley
Amari Ritchie
Enrique Rivera
Janel Roberts
Ashlyn Robinson
Darryl Robinson

Delaun Robinson Jr.
Keith Rochefort Jr.
Zaria Rock
Nya Rodgers
Allison Rodriguez
Kristyn Rogers
Gregory Romeo
Leonardo Romero
Jonah Rosas

Elliott Ruffin Jr.
Tyler Russell
Chaz Sales
Andrew Salka
Collin Sanders
Dana Sanders
Robert Sanders Jr.
Jacob Sandridge
Christopher Saporito

John Sawyer
Gabrielle Schindler
Montana Schulatz
Brandon Scott
Jaime Scott
Le'Anna Scott
Kyle Semmes
Erica Serros
Justin Setzer

Would you rather use sandpaper for toilet paper or lemon drops for eye drops?



"Lemon drops."
Matthew Alleyne

"Sandpaper."
Abigail Dias

Would you rather never be able to laugh again or never be able to use your smartphone again?

"Never laugh again."
Tori Pruitt

"Never use a smartphone."
Daniela Waiters

Michael Shell III
Aeriel Shelton
Antineal Shelton
Preston Shirley
Savannah Shirley
Joseph Silvas
Carlos Sims
Erin Sims
Jonathan Sims

Amariah Smith
Christian Smith
D'Mia Smith
Jordan Smith
Kamri Smith
Ryan Smith
Sierre Smith
William Smith
Xavier Smith

Reannah Soto
Raymond Span
Tay'zha Span
Matthew Spieknall
Daniel Sprouse Jr.
DonShea' Steele
Kyra Stevens
Joseph Stevenson
Aaliyah Stewart

Kaitlin Stingley
Tamia Stingley
Sincere Stitt
Brandon Streck
Angelo Strong
Braedan Stubbs
Phat Ta
Diamond Taher
Chadryne Tamo

Jansen Tan
Kendall Tanniehill
Kennedy Tanniehill
Ivelisse Taylor
Olivia Taylor
Brandon Taylor II
Markeonti Teamer
Meagan Thomas
Tyler Thomas

Maurice Thomas III
Cameron Thompson
Lakya Thompson
Sabrina Thormann
Sarah Thormann
Heaven Tomlinson
Jacob Toodle
Jubilee Topps
Angelo Torres

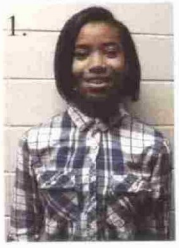
Tamara Trimble
Kayla Trotter
Treneal Tyes
Ah'zsur Ursery
Faye Valadez
Prysma Valdivia
Brianna Vanderbilt
Tyler VanVleet
Aaron Vara

Mix & Match

Who is your favorite artist?

Kennedy Tanniehill

1.

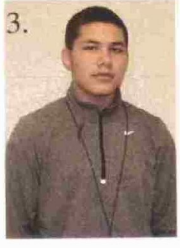


Tay'zha Span

2.

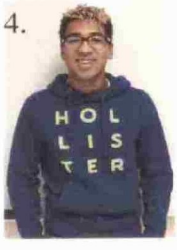
Angelo Torres

3.



Justin Hinton

4.



Alyssa Hunt

5.

Dajamori' Brown

6.

A. J. Cole

B. Alt-J

C. Childish Gambino

D. Chance the Rapper

E. Chris Brown

F. Nicki Minaj

Answers: 1. C, 2. E, 3. A, 4. B, 5. F, 6. D.

David Vazquez
Katelyn Vinson
Xitlalic Viramontes Renteria
Samuel Voeller
Selena Wagonblast
Daniela Waiters
Brian Walker
Nicholas Walker
Willie Wallace Jr.

Erica Walton
Brian Ward Jr.
Akilah Ware
Destiny Washington
Keeshawn Weaver
TraVon Weaver
Joyeelynn West
Darieus Westbrook
Dennis Weston

Tavion Wheeler
Aaron Whitaker
Genesis White
Aahron Whitehead
JaKobe Wilbon
Akyona Williams
Alyssia Williams
Aneia Williams
Brittney Williams

Mercedes Williams
Robert Williams
Shaina Williams
Talyah Williams
Sayiuk Willis
Courtney Wilson
Alana Winters
Jayden Wise
Meagan Wise

Roy Wood II
Cameron Woods
Keyerra Woods
Ronald Woods
Ronisha Woods
Shianne Woods
Israel Woods Jr.
Jayla Wright
Jadah Yanders

Gabriyan Young
Abigail Zahora

Not Pictured

Rah'naysha Boyd
Jaizon Calvert
Destiny Harris
Kristen Kuykendoll
Michael Lomec Jr.

What is your favorite social media?

Xitlalic Viramontes Renteria

1.

Raeanne Davila

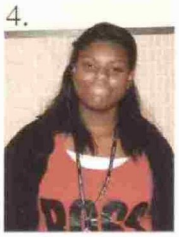
2.

Tori Holst

3.

Asjanae Cruz

4.

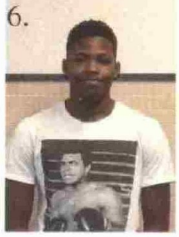


Isaiah Peres

5.

Robert Williams

6.

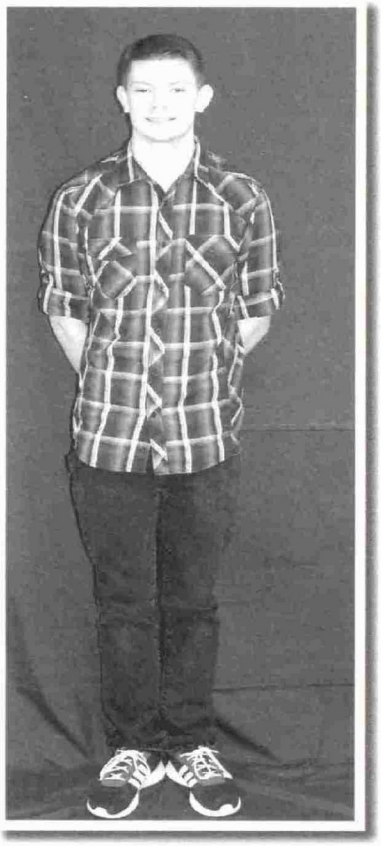


Mix & Match

A. YouTube
B. Twitter
C. Snapchat
D. Musical.ly
E. Instagram
F. Facebook

Answers: 1. E, 2. D, 3. C, 4. B, 5. F, 6. D.

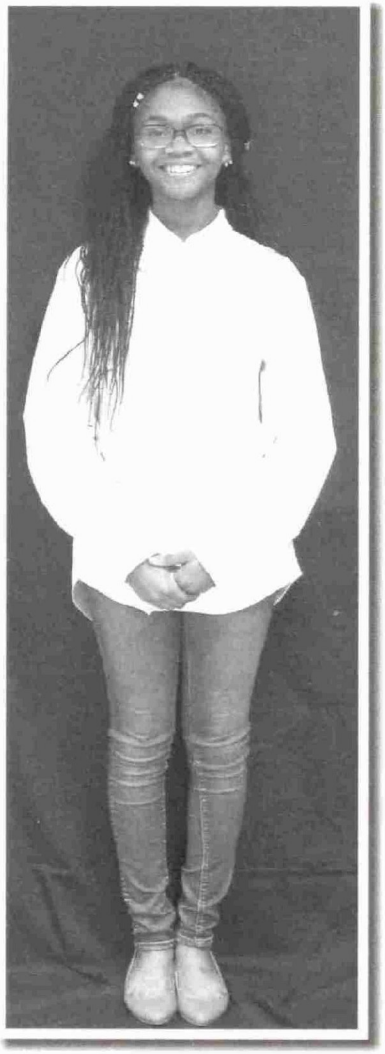
WE ENDURED



Treasurer Isaac Graham

Why did you run for treasurer?
"I wanted to participate and be an active member in our class. I wanted to bring our class together and make our junior year fun."

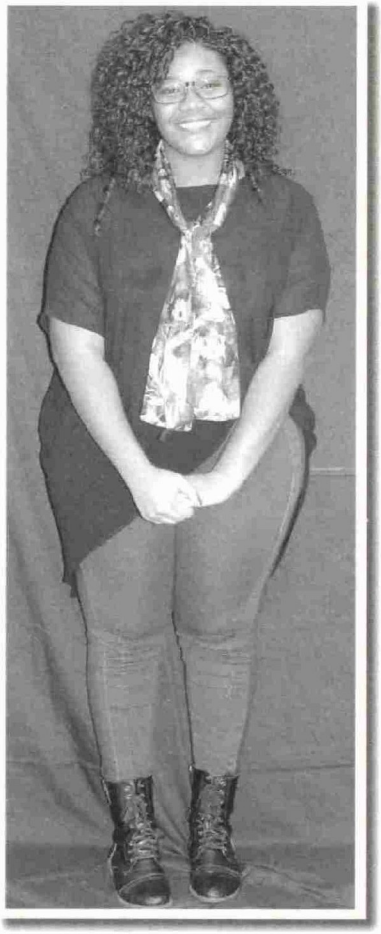
What is your favorite food?
"Hot wings because they are good and I'm fat."



President Breshaye Spear

What do you want to accomplish in office?
"I want to raise money for senior year."

Fun fact:
"I have been playing the clarinet since I was 11."



Vice President Jahnari Pruitt

How do you assist the president?
"I assist the president by being a sounding board to bounce ideas off and see how they can be used in the school with the amount of money we have."

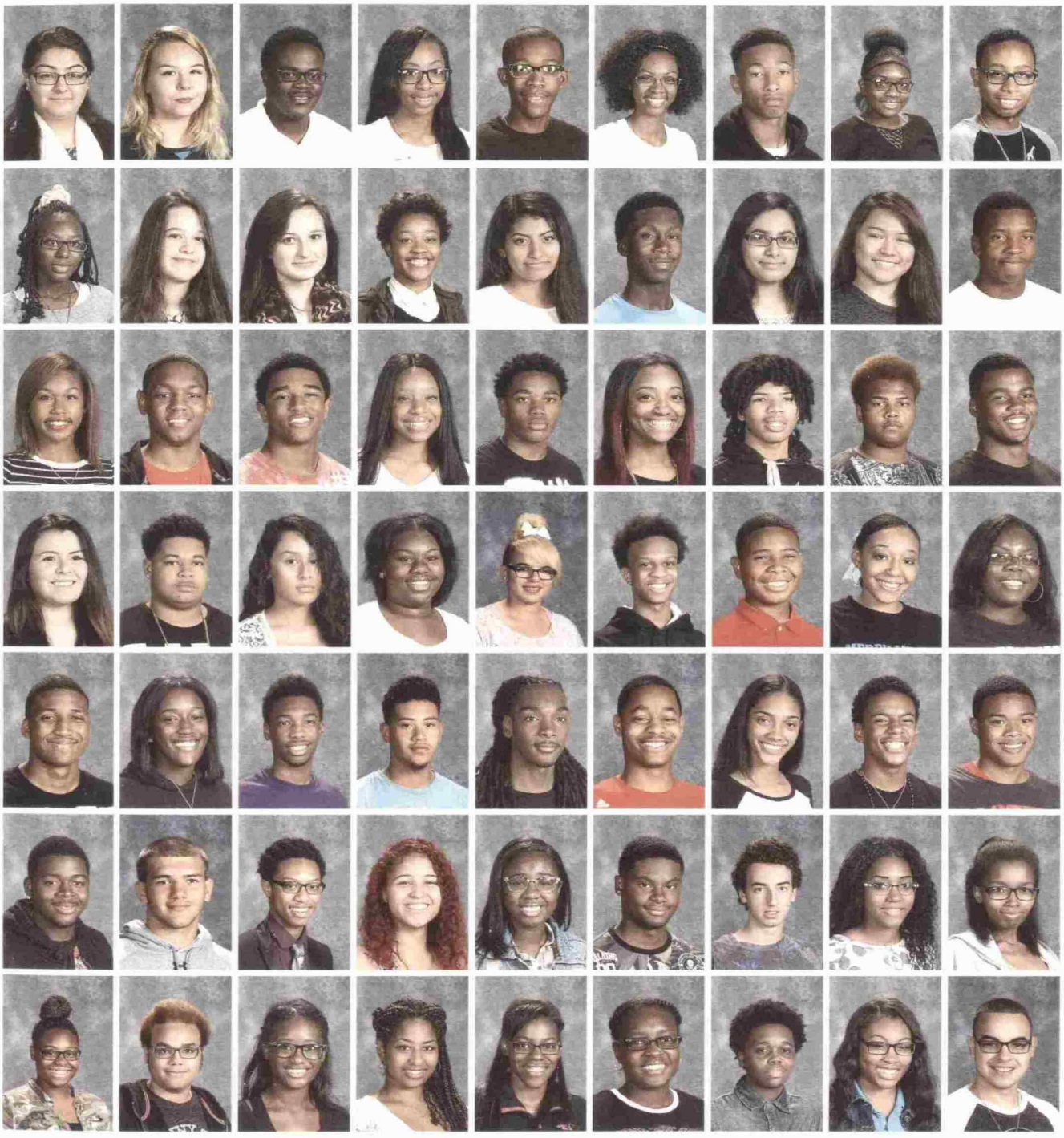
What are you scared of?
"I'm scared of spiders because they are small and move fast."

Secretary Morgan Brinker

What is the most important thing about being a secretary?
"I have to make sure everything stays organized."

What is your favorite movie?
"'Beauty and the Beast' because I watched it about a million times when I was little."

Class of 2017



Illaha Abdul
Cheyenne Adams
Jalen Adams
Areeana Adeniyi
Gerald Akujobi Jr.
Indaneja Alexander
Justus Alexander
Ebonie Ali
Adrian Allen

Jenise Allen
Kaitlyn Ammerman
Abigayle Anderson
Ralissa Andrews
Angela Arellano
Nana Asabere
Sairah Asghar
Kathleen Aton
TyRaye Austin

Breonna Baggett
Michael Baker Jr.
Antonio Balducci
Ashli Ballard
Anthony Banks
Diana Banks
Traevon Banks
Va'Quon Banks
Quinten Barnslater Jr.

Fernanda Barrera
Demond Beatty
Jennifer Bedolla
Brittany Bell
Shyann Bell
Kendall Best
Quionte' Biffle
Madison Blackwell
Unique Blakely

Donnovan Blue
Jalisa Bolden
James Bolden Jr.
Aaron Booker
Derrick Bowling Jr.
Jerry Boyd
Renee Bozeman
Malik Bradley
Brandell Bradshaw

Ricky Braggs
Branden Bramson
Ronald Brewer
Waukesha Briner
Morgan Brinker
De'Angelo Brison
Samuel Brnicky
Samantha Brooks
Suzanna Broom

Brianna Brown
Carlos Bryant
Timoya Bryant
Torian Bryant
Natasha Burl
Vanessa Bush
Christopher Bynum
Shakayla Bynum-Crenshaw
Isaac Caballero

Jacob Cabrera
Kamari Cage
Kaylyn Campbell
Symone Campero
Deangelo Cannon
Maria Carbajal
Roberto Carbajal
Tyler Carlisle
Austin Carrero

Autumn Carrero
Arianna Carrillo
Julianna Carrillo
Precious Carter
Alex Carter III
Roy Castellanos
Austin Castro
Jalen Catron
Kevin Celestino

Alexandra Chambliss
Tequila Chandler
Deion Charleston Jr.
Christian Clemons
Ladaisha Clinton
Isobel Collins
Ivan Cook Jr.
Erika Cooper
Perry Coria Jr.

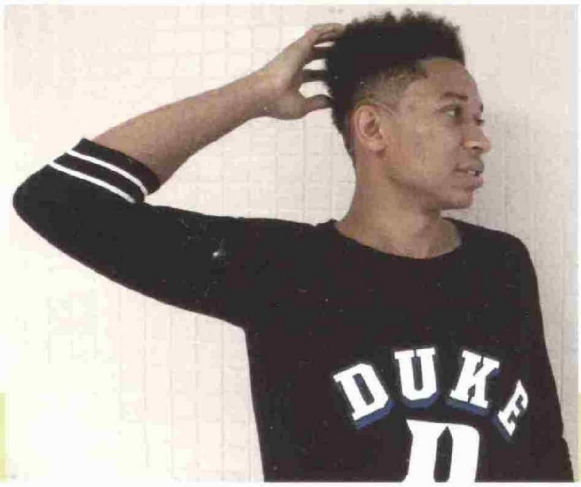
Aaron Corralez
Angela Coulter
Janna Covelli
Tatyanah Cross
Elizabeth Croy
Calvin Cruse Jr.
Antonio Cruz Jr.
Dakari Cundiff
Jack Daniel

Darryn Daniels
Isaiah Davis
James Davis
Jazaniel Davis
Karrington Davis
Kyle Davis
Michael De La Pena
Emily DeCausemaker
Karla DeLeon

Alton Desadier III
Moises Diaz
Martin Diaz-Acero
Ja'various Dixon
Shauntanelle Dixon
Clara Dobbin
Breanne Downing
Halina Duke
Hannah Duran

Zachary Dziki
Melinda Easton
Jeffery Eddins Jr.
Jakobe Edmond
Royal Eldridge
Matthew Ervin
Ceana Escalante
Anthony Fassoth
Aurora Fassoth

What's hot & what's not!

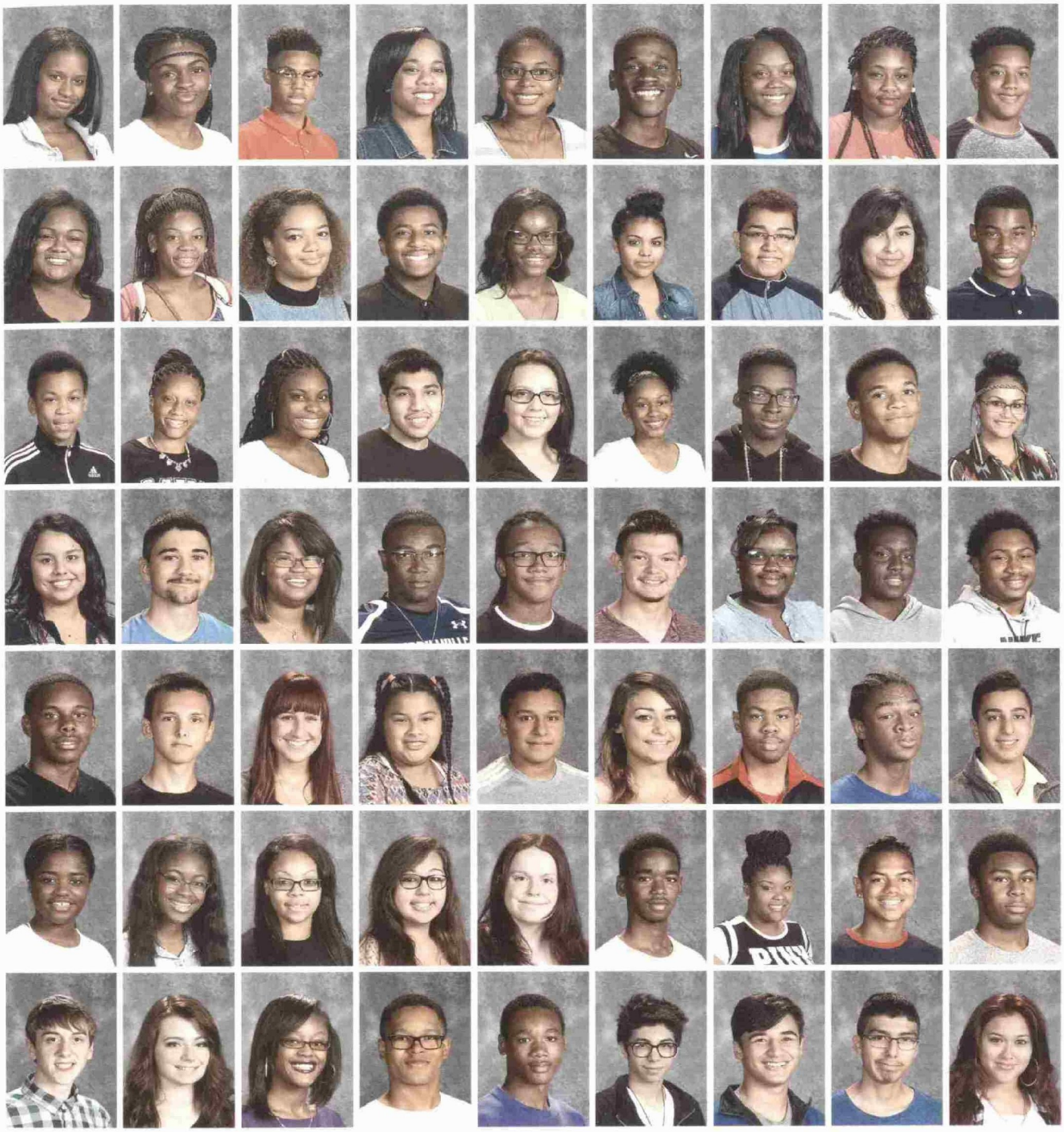


Jonah Jackson

Taper Cut

67% said hot!

33% said not!



Aisha Faulkner
Ashlee Fields
Kevin Fields
Carolyn Fleming
Alexandria Flowers
DaiQuan Ford
ShaiVon Ford
Daria Forrest
Terrell Foster Jr.

Alicia Frazier
Jade Frison
Ivori Fulton
Mikal Funches
Jei'Avonni Gage
Alina Garcia
Jose Garcia Jr.
Jacqueline Garza
Eugene Gibson-Baker

Kordell Gibson
Mekhayla Gibson
Sheteka Gibson Baker
Adrian Gibson-Moreno
Cheyenne Gidley
Jamila Gipson
Darrel Glass II
Thomas Golden Jr.
Cynthia Gomez

Ana Gonzalez
Matthew Gonzalez
Tiffanie Goodman
Jay'lon Gordon
Osan Gordon
Isaac Graham
Princess Graham
Da'Vontay Gray
David Green Jr.

Ke'Manuel Griffin
Austin Griffith
Nicole Groleau
Olivia Guevara
Victor Gutierrez
Brianna Guzman
Adonis Hall
Ahmad Hall
Mohammad Hamad

Leslie Hardin
Tasha Hardin
JayLynn Hardrick
Clarissa Haro
Sydney Harper
Devante Harris
Taejah Harris
Joseph Harris II
Lawrence Harris III

Nicholas Harsma
Larissa Hart
Don Trease Hazelett
Kendall Heffner
Devin Hence
Elvis Herman-Gama
Angel Hernandez
Cezar Hernandez
Monica Hernandez

Aryal Randall

Maroon Hair

83% said hot!

17% said not!

Mya Wilson

Palazzo Pants

50% said hot!

50% said not!

Rogelio Hernandez
Esteban Hernandez Jr.
Oscar Hernandez Jr.
Cherise Higgins
Ja'korey Higgs-Jackson
Destiny Hill
Henry Hill
Shaylon Hill
Cynthia Hindmon

Dewayne Holbrook III
Dale Holley
London Holley
Ke'Ayzia Holliday
Leroy Holliday Jr.
Makayla Hollingsworth
Michael Hollowell Jr.
Ameer Holmes
Romeo Hoover

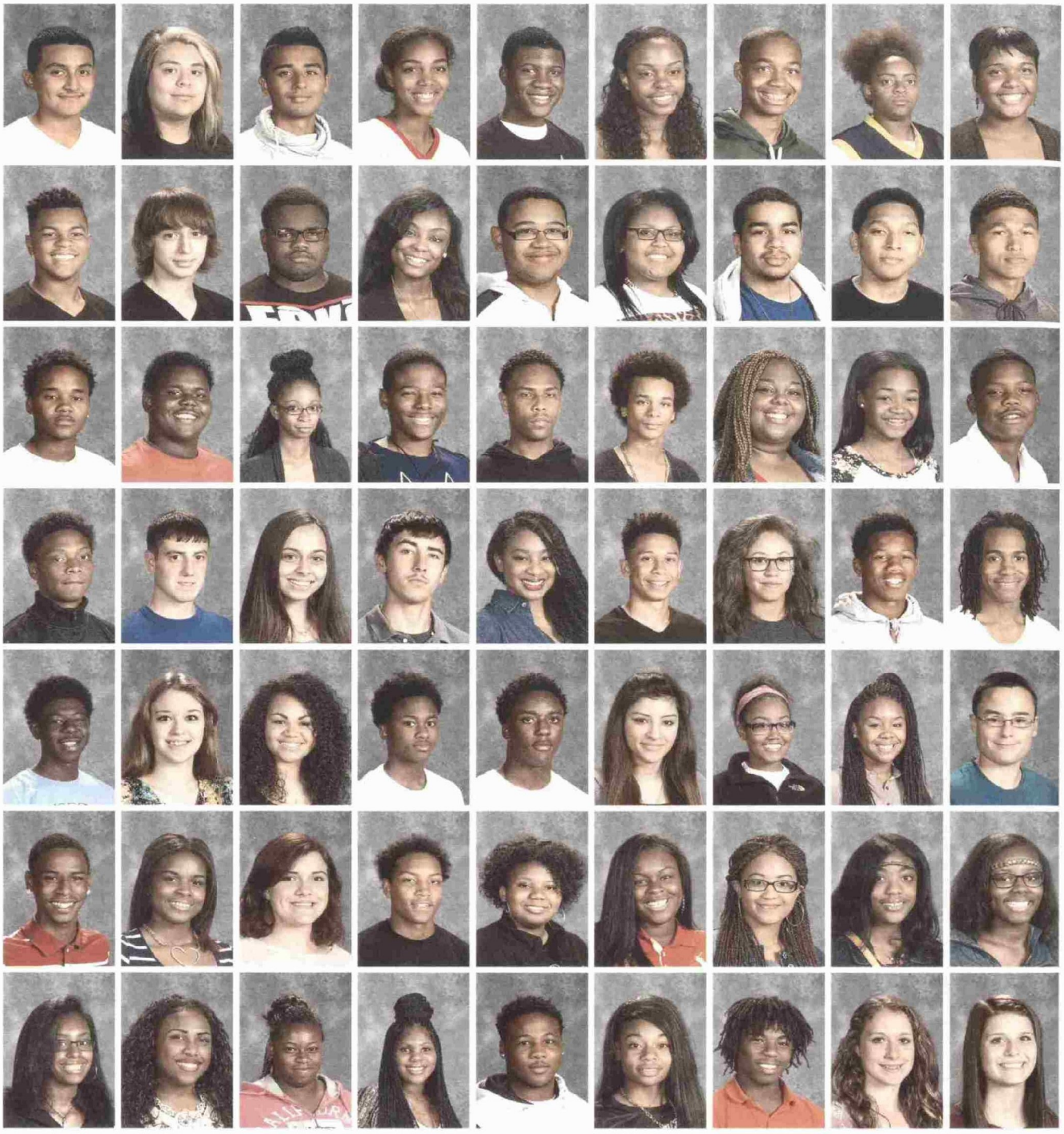
Deddrick Houser
Aaris Howard
Aunteria Howard
Christopher Howard
Iren Howard
Jason Howell
Jazmine Huffmon
Ashlei Hunt
Darius Hutch

Donuai Hutch
Casey Hyland
Mariaheruz Igartua
Seth Ivanov
LaAshtiana Ivey
Jonah Jackson
Kalea Jackson
Kameron Jackson
Marquise Jackson

DeWayne Jackson Jr.
Brittany Jakubowiez
Charysse James
Keanu Jenkins
Justin Jerry
Leticia Jimenez
Anya Johnson
JaeLenn Johnson
Michael Johnson

Shawntez Johnson
TasMarie Johnson
Willow Johnson
Moses Johnson Jr.
Kayla Johnson-Owens
Adoria Jolly
Arkayla Jones
Avvione Jones
De'Jah Jones

Gelena Jones
Ivory Jones
Mary Jones
Tyler Jones
Tyler Jones
Montel Jones Jr.
Devon Joshua Jr.
Kathryn Jurezyk
Samantha Kale-Foster



Finish the Line!

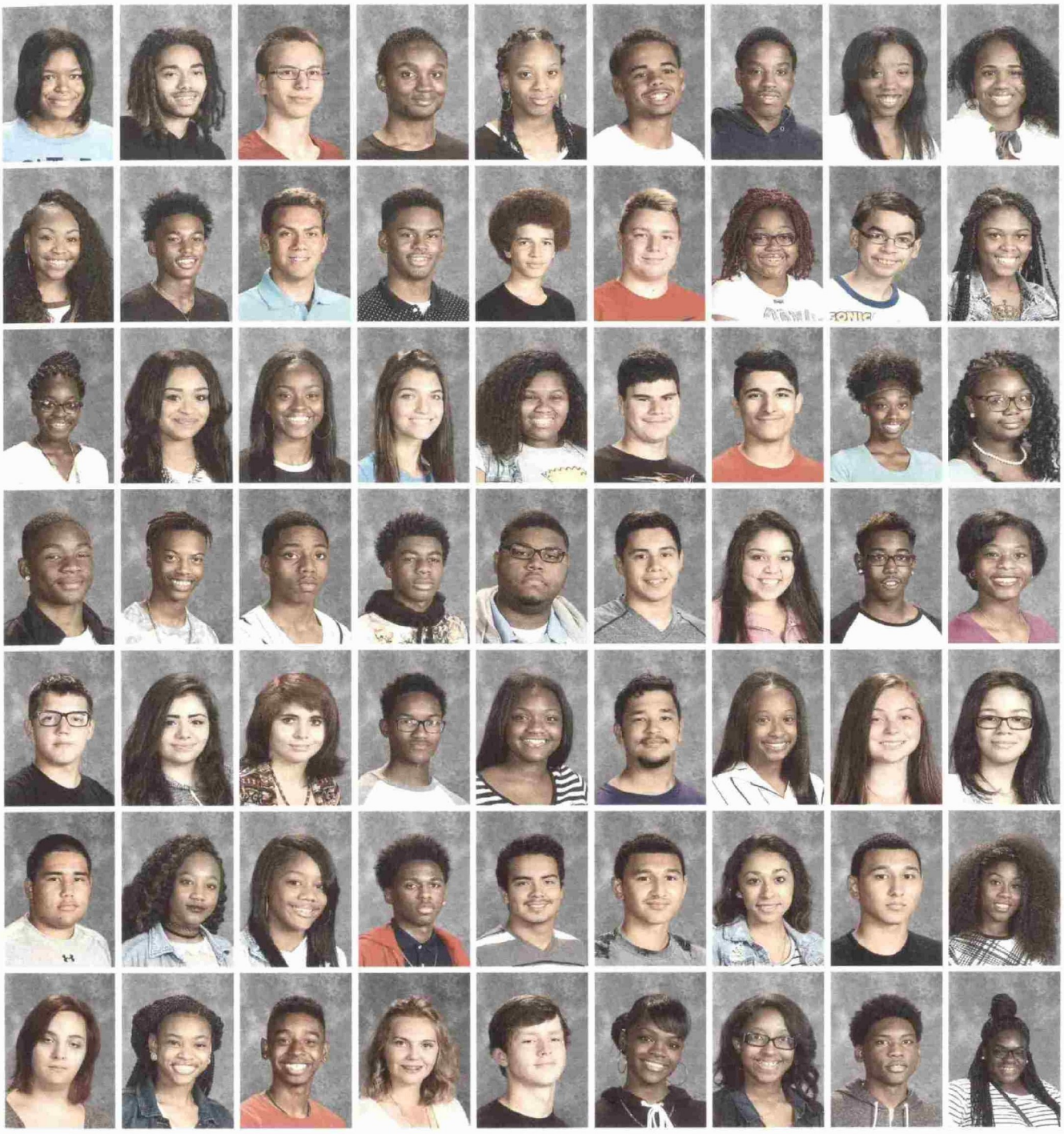
Say My Name by Destiny's Child

"Say my name, say my name
If no one is around you,
Say baby, I love you
If you ain't runnin' game.
Say my name, say my name
You actin' kinda shady,
Ain't callin' me baby
Better say my name."

All bad

"Say my name, say my name
You actin' kinda shady
Ain't callin' me baby
Why the sudden change?
Baby better say my name
At the crib with another lady."

Marshae Lane



Ashley Katz
Keano Keenon
Sean Keith
Vantron Kelley Jr.
Yolanda Kelly
Darius Kendall
Jermaine Kimbrough
Jermell Kimbrough
Nyjah King

Terra King
James Kirklen Jr.
Kyle Klingaman
Justin Knox
Andrew Kopca
Joseph Krutz
Tiarra Kurtis
Richard Laeefield
Zacharia Landor

Marshae Lane
Simone Lara
Carnisa Laster
Fabienne Lauriseh
Torryn Lee
Andrew Leon
Jesus Leon
Carissa Lewis
Najah Lewis-Singleton

Roosevelt Liddell
Jermaine Lipscomb
Akil Lloyd
Tevon Lockett
Kevin Lockett II
Alexis Lopez
Cassandra Lopez
Justin Lovings
Christian Luckett

Jorge Luna III
Paulina Lupercio
Ashlee Luttinen
Jerome Lynch II
Alicia Maelin
Xavier Madera
Jazmyne Magee
Taylor Maj
Re'nee Mallett

Matthew Mallon
Jaylynn Malone
Kennedy Marshall
Thomas Marshall IV
Alan Martinez
Daniel Martinez
Mariana Martinez
Matthew Martinez
Jlah Massie

Alexandria Matzaris
Asia Maynor
Rommelo Mayo
Megan Mays
Kyle McCallister
Rachel McChristian
Jaylah McClarin
Rae'Sean McClendon
Symone McCray

Tasha Hardin

Decent, I guess

"Say my name, say my name
If nobody is around you,
Say baby, I love you
If you ain't runnin' game.
Say my name, say my name
You actin' kinda crazy,
And callin' me baby
Better not say my name."

Sharrod Mitchell

Perfect

" Say my name, say my name
If no one is around you,
Say baby, I love you
If you ain't runnin' game.
Say my name, say my name
You actin' kinda shady,
Ain't callin' me baby
Better say my name."

C'yanne McDonald
Markeya McDowell
Terrance McGee
Theodore McGhee
Kadarius McKinney
Elijah McLean
Dominik McLemore
Mahqueese McMillan
Mileek McMillan

Briyauna McNeal
Carlos Mejia
Israel Melendez III
Tashauna Mensah
Mallorie Michalak
Marcus Miller
Raymond Miller Jr.
Walik Millsap
Sharrod Mitchell

Alisha Mongold
Jaia Montgomery
Brian Moore
Diamond Moore
Dominique Moore
Maxwell Moore
Nehemiah Moore
Quiana Moorehead
Jailand Morgan

Hannah Moss
Zarria Moss
Anna Mryszuk
Maryam Muhammad
Jared Muiser
Justin Nabors
David Nash Jr.
Dajon Newton
Aleeeia Niezgoda

Marcus Norton
Nehemiah Nunnery
Kaci O'Neal
John Ohiani-Jegede
Heather Osorio
Ranier Palmer
Brittany Parks
Kailyn Patillo
Dennis Patterson Jr.

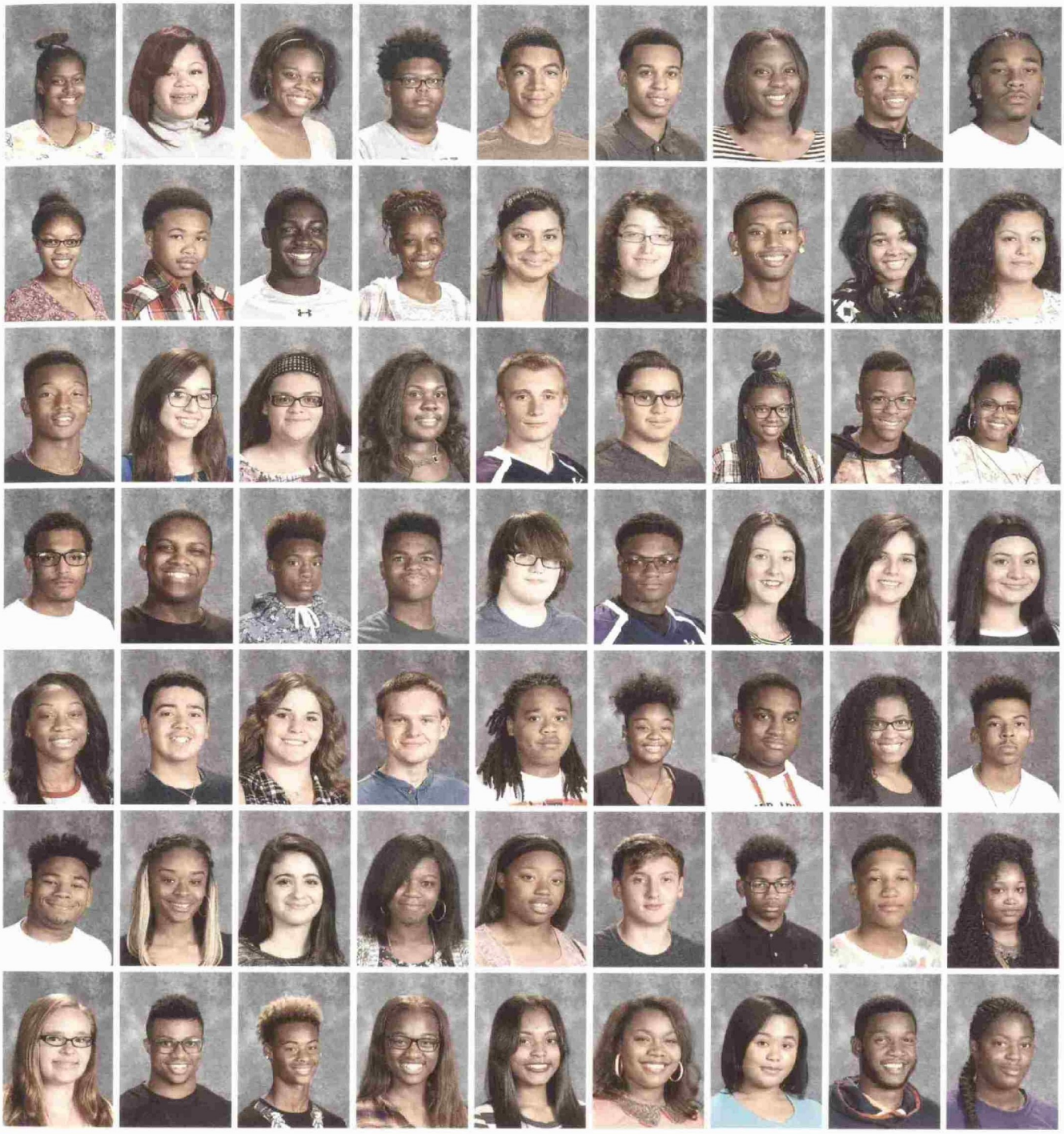
Infinity Patton
Kendrick Payne
Natalie Paz
Makayla Pearson
Grettel Peralta
Carlos Perez
Diontae Phillips
Patrisha Phillips
Kyrah Pirtle

D'Vonne Porter
Klayton Porter
Michael Porterfield
Elgin Prewitt
Samantha Proper
Jahnari Pruitt
Breonna Pulphus
Jazzybell Quinones
Zakariyya Ra Sun

When I was a freshman...

"When I was a freshman, on the first day of school, I missed my last two classes and went to two classes twice." Najah Lewis-Singleton

"When I was a freshman, I could never find anything. I was forever late to everthing." Diana Banks



Sharee Ramsey
Aryal Randall
Leah Ray
Iziah Readus
Rico Reed
Anthony Reese
Amiya Reina
Chris Rias
Tyron Rias Jr.

Joshel Richards
Qwentin Richmond
Nickoleus Riley
Tatiana Riley
Maria Rivera
Julianne Roberts
Elisha Robins
Aliyah Robinson
Karina Robledo

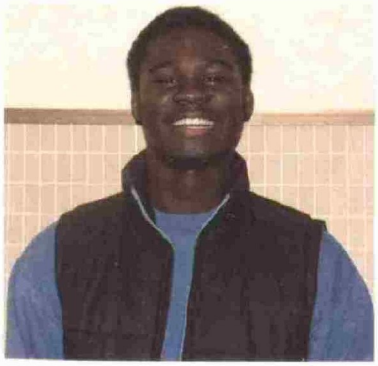
Sean Roche'
Rachel Rodriguez
Yesenia Rodriguez
Jessieca Rone
Bradlee Ronning
David Rosa
Madison Ross
Elijah Royal
Chrissey Ruffin

Christopher Ruffin Jr.
Julian Russell
Maurice Russell Jr.
Terry Sabbath
Dakota Sampson
Anthony Sams Jr.
Alexis Sanchez
Andrea Sanchez Lamas
Kenia Sanchez Sandoval

Kayla Sandridge
Steffan Santiago
Alexis Schulatz
Joel Schwartz
Jaylin Scott
Ja'Nesha Shelby
Brandon Shelton
Brook Shelton
Jalen Sherwood

Donovan Shields
Alexus Shirrells
Nitsa Shomo
Alexus Simpson
Kaja Sims
Daniel Skonieczny
Davon Smith
Justin Smith
Kailyn Smith

Katelyn Smith
Kendrick Smith
Kenyatta Smith
Mi-Chae' Smith
Rishara Smith
Scarlett Smith
Sydney Smith
Gerald Smith Jr.
Amari Smith McPhee



"When I was a freshman, I had to change myself to the high school path, which is way harder than middle school." Tyreak Thomas

"When I was a freshman, I was so embarrassed because I fell up the stairs on the first day of school." Nicole Webster

"When I was a freshman, I had to leave school to change my shirt, and my hair was a mess for picture day." Amari Smith McPhee

"When I was a freshman, I had a lot going on between drama amongst peers and getting good grades." Mary Jones

Ashleyrose Sparks
Breshaye Spear
Lauren Stanley
Hayley Steichen
Maxwell Stevens
D'Vaughn Steward
Martell Stitt
Carl Stokes III
Ari Stone-Tekeste

Stephanie Stringer
Alfred Stubbs III
Meyianna Sullivan
Aaliyah Tapia
Aisha Taylor
Derrick Taylor
Joy Taylor
Roman Taylor
Taj Taylor

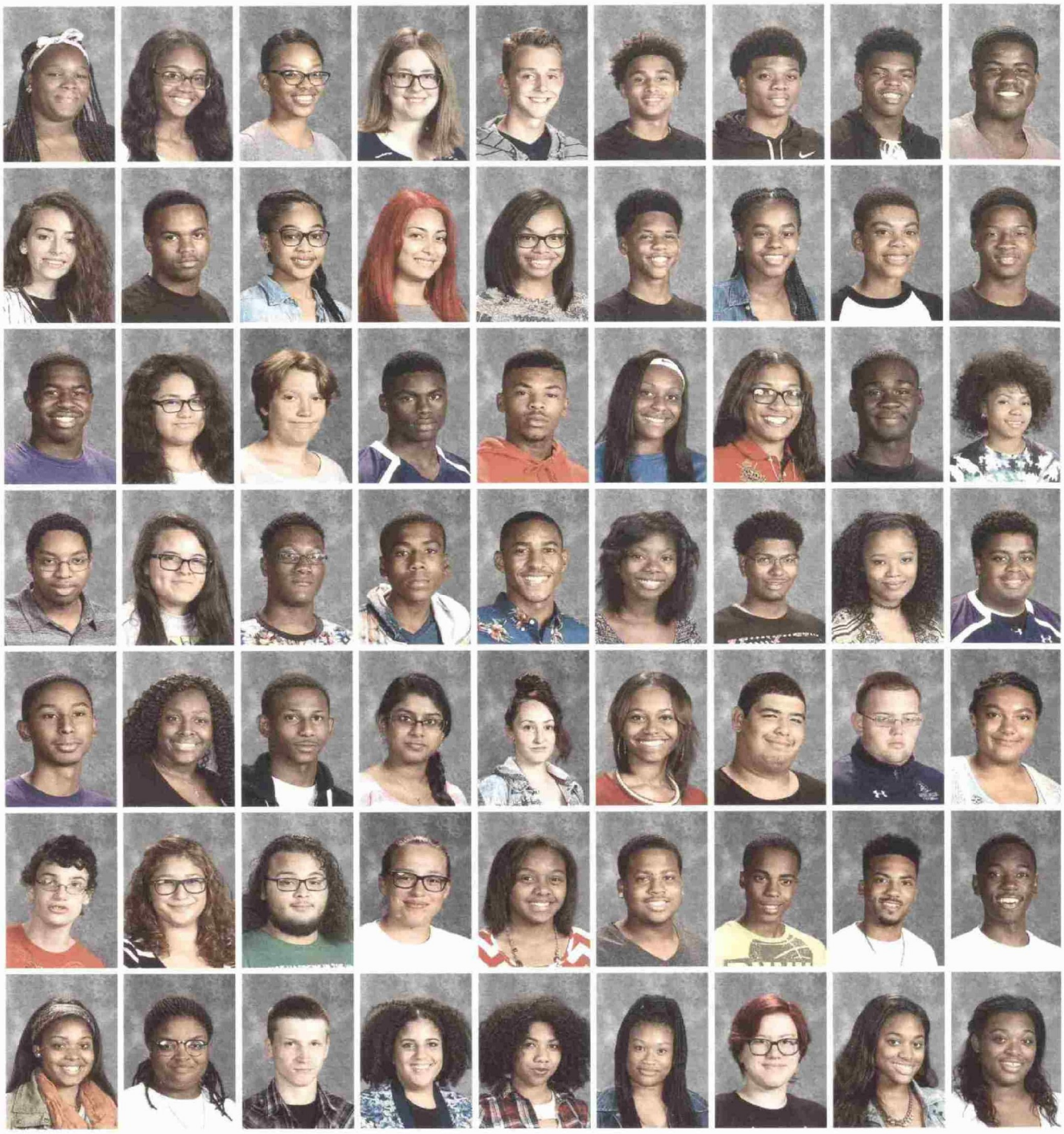
Kylen Terrell
Victoria Terry
Georgia Thayer
Kejuan Thomas
Marquis Thomas
Raegene Thomas
Re'najah Thomas
Tyreak Thomas
Kiarra Thompson

LaVonte Thompson
Serena Thormann
Ryan Thornton
Anthony Timmons Jr
Isaac Tolliver
Angela Toomer
Milan Trajkovski
Alonna Traylor
Blake Turley

Justin Turner Jr.
Ciara Tyrone
Nijah Tyson
Kavitha Udumula
Hannah Umbarger
Taylor Upshaw
Anthony Valdez
Andrew Vander Woude
Allison Vanderbilt

Devon VanLew
Anjil Vazquez
Francisco Vazquez Jr.
Jennifer Villanueva
Leah Waiters
Kyrann Walker Jr.
Dondre' Wall
Mitchell Ward Jr.
James Warner IV

Tyanna Watson
Nikita Weaver
Christopher Webb
Nicole Webster
Nia Wells
Antonia' West
Bryana Wheeldon
Alyssia Whiteside
Areiana Whiteside

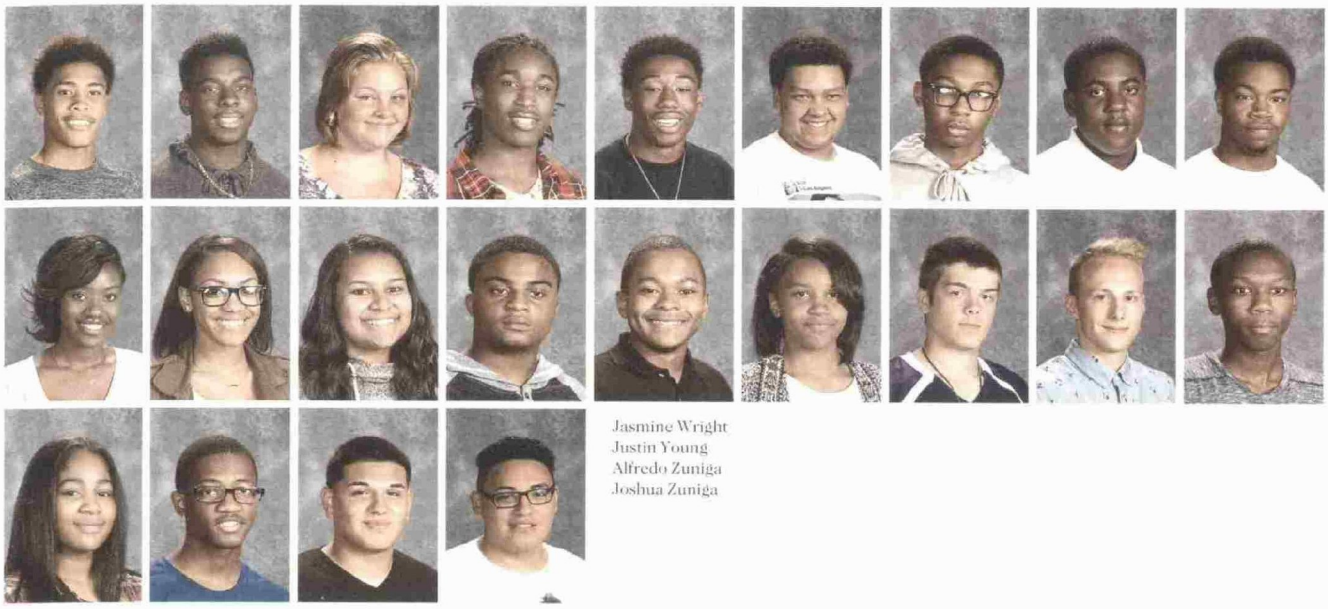


What was your first job?

"I work at Panda Express. We're not just co-workers. It's like a gigantic family." Kathleen Aton

"I worked for an independent landscaping contractor during the summer." TyRaye Austin

"I was a dance instructor at the Indiana Ballet Theatre. I taught 5- to 12-year olds." Willow Johnson



Cameron Wilbon
Ayron Williams
Jillian Williams
Lamonteon Williams
Laquant Williams
Michael Williams Jr.
Robert Williams Jr.
Willie Williams III
Emmanuel Willis

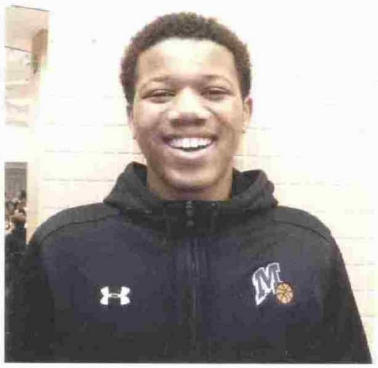
Ajah Wilson
Mya Wilson
Natalie Winburn
Jaron Woods
Tyler Woods
De'Jah Woodson
Nathan Woodworth
Benjamin Worthington
Alonzo Wright

Jasmine Wright
Justin Young
Alfredo Zuniga
Joshua Zuniga

Solve the riddle

Q Paul's height is 6 feet. He's an assistant at a butcher shop and wears a size 9 shoe. What does he weigh?

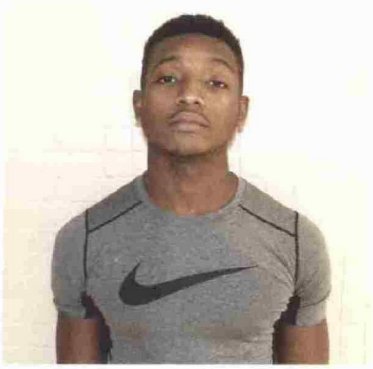
"Umm, I don't know. He's all messed up, so probably about 165."
Kameron Jackson



Right answer: Meat

Q What is something that you can't hold for ten minutes, even though it's lighter than a feather?

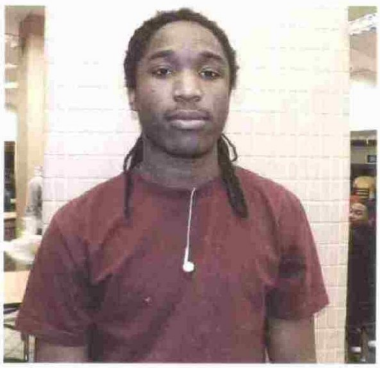
"Uhh, your breath."
Sean Roche'



Right answer: Your breath

Q How much dirt is there in a hole that measures 2 feet by 3 feet by 4 feet?

"Don't you gotta multiply 2 x 3 x 4? So about 4 feet of dirt."
Lamonteon Williams



Right answer: There is no dirt in a hole.

Q Which is correct? The yolk of the egg are white, or the yolk of the egg is white?

"Is, right? Umm, I don't know."
Victoria Terry

Right answer: Neither. The yolk of the egg is yellow.

Not Pictured

Christian Akinbobuyi
Kamari Bridges
Taylor Cazy
Erris Charleston
Brittany Coleman
Keenan Crawford
Dakari Cummins
Ronald Epting
Joseph Hayes
Christopher Hendrix
Robert Jackson
Jayden Jolley
Kenneth Kirkham Jr.
Armani Leal
Mercedes Martin
Ashley Matthews
Deven Nguyen
Marcus Norton
Isaiah Pearson
Jakoby Perry
Steven Rasmussen
Regenea Riley
Stephen Rodriguez
Amber Saenz
Anthony Sams Jr.
Alivia Silva
A'Sonta' Stewart
Destiny Stewart
Michael Strain
Eufracia Taisipic
Cordero Terrell
Teresa Vandecar
Dominic Velez
Janae Washington
Israel Williams
Jordan Youngblood

Faculty

Salvador Aguilar, Social Studies
Gerald Akujobi, Custodial
Robert Albers, Custodial
Carrie Altieri, Cafeteria
Frank Alvarez, Security
Janet Anderson, Art
Joseph Atria, Science
Cheryl Austin, Science
Vern Baity, Maintenance

Susan Baker, Custodial
Amber Baron, Social Studies
Amy Beckham, Athletics
Carrie Bedwell, English
Robert Bedwell, Social Studies
Adeline Bemish, Special Education
Brad Best, Security
Kathy Bihlman, Athletics
Jeremy Bilka, Math

Lora Bish, Guidance
Erica Boards, Cafeteria
Wade Boise, Math
Harry Boskamp, Math
James Bostic, Custodial
Theda Bostic Jr., Cafeteria
Janelle Bowen, Media Services
Shelby Brabbs, Social Studies
Connor Buxton, Special Education

Melissa Byerly, World Languages
Kristin Campbell, Science
Prezonia Carroll, Cafeteria
Sarwat Choudhry, Teacher Aide
Byron Clark, Business
Patrick Coffey, Physical Education
Mary Kay Conway, Special Education
Hannah Coronado, World Languages
Damita Crittenden,
Freshman Center Clerk

Bruce Curme, Science
Anthony Curry, Math
Dawn Czuba, ESL
Monica DaCosta Gomez,
World Languages
Carol Dahlen, Social Worker
Ben Daniel, Physical Education
Sarah Daniels, Guidance
Mark Danielson, Performing Arts
Melinda Davis, Cafeteria

Dana Deloian, Physical Education
Grace Dewald, Guidance
Christine Dixon, Business
Pamela Dortch, Secretary
Nancy Draper, Math
Jeff Eaton, Math
Colin Elliott, Special Education
Jeff Emond, English
Michael Engle, English

Meghan Erickson, Media Center
Jeff Fairbairn, Physical Education
Robert Fernando, Custodial
Erin Flores, English
Brigitte Floyd, Nurse
Rachel Friend, Cafeteria
Kevin Furman, Resource Officer
Kathryn Gaines, Science
Dragica Gajic, Custodial

Paul Gallivan, Maintenance
Rob Gardner, Security
Matt Garner, Math
Zella Garron, Math
Greg Geimer, Guidance
Cynthia Gil, World Languages
Dane Glass, Building Trades
Sara Gleason, English
Giovanni Gonzalez, Student Teacher

& Staff

Obi Gordon, Science
Amy Govert, Physical Education
Juan Guajardo, Custodial
Linda Hall, Secretary
Teresa Harness, Cafeteria
Josh Harvoth, PNN
Susan Hayes, Physical Education
Kira Healy, Math
Bob Heckler, Science

Juanita Hernandez, ESL Aide
Dave Hinkel, Science
Anthony Hofer, Social Studies
Mike Hoffman, Math
Yolanda Hogan-Morris, Instructional Aide
Katelyn Holselaw, Social Worker
Cari Hooper, Guidance
David Hossler, English
Jason Hostetler, English

Joseph Hussey, Math
Elisha Israel, English
Timothy James, Assistant Principal
Erica Jenkins, Cafeteria
Vanessa Johnson, Cafeteria
Dareie Johnston, Special Education
James Johnston, Industrial Tech
Kathy Jones, Special Education
Betty Jordan, Guidance

Bojan Jovanovic, Social Studies
Nicki Jusko, Athletics
Andy Kaplar,Instructional Aide
Rose Karson, Media Center
Sean Kavois, Special Education
Jason Kendera, Instructional Aide
Amanda Kennedy, English
Sarah Kennedy Ketchem, Art
Elizabeth Kenyon, Media Center

Sean Kinsey, Social Studies
Lena Kiser, Bookkeeper
Debbie Klippel, Secretary
Angie Knezevic, Custodial
Mike Knocke, Social Studies
Nada Kolar, Custodial
Kelly Kratz, Social Studies
Themelina Kritikos, Cafeteria
Michael Krutz, Principal

Linda Kulina, Special Education
Danny Lackey, Diversity Director
Katie Lewis, Cafeteria
Shareice Livingston, Cafeteria
Jesse Long, Substitute
Aaron Longacre, Industrial Tech
LaTonya Lopez, Security
Luis Lopez, Science
Sheryl Loving, Art

Tricia Lukawski,Physical Education
Thomas Mackey, Performing Arts
Patti Magee, Greeter
Kristin Maglish, Athletics
David Maldonado,World Languages
Raquel Maldonado, Cafeteria
Veronica Maldonado, Guidance
Chyamiah Martin, Science
Rachelle Massacavollo, Math

Nicole McDonald, Secretary
Sean Meagher, Math
Lee Meyer, English
Nisa Milosavljevich, Custodial
Vesna Mitic, Custodial
Biljana Mizimakoska, Cafeteria
Alan Mizimakoski, English
Noura Mohamed, Cafeteria
Joseph Monahan, English

Debbie Monix, English
Robert Moran, Special Education
Helen Moravskij, Custodial
Debra Morgan, Substitute
LaFonda Morris, Assistant Principal
Dan Moslander, Social Studies
Mary Neylon, Media Services
Gail Nicolini, Math
Bonnie Nikseh, Media Services

Joe Nora, Security
Beth O'Halek, Special Education
Martha Ortiz, Guidance Secretary
Brian Parker, Social Studies
Rick Parker, Special Education
Stacy Parkhurst, Cafeteria
Penny Parmley, Cafeteria
Brian Past, PNN
Deanne Pierce, Math

Greg Pierson, Industrial Tech
Heather Posiek, Math
Celia Pollard, Registrar
Steve Prather, Industrial Tech
Teresa Procter, English/Journalism
Rose Pulliam, Security
Janis Qualizza, Athletics
Carrie Quinn, Student Teacher
Pearl Quiroz, Custodial

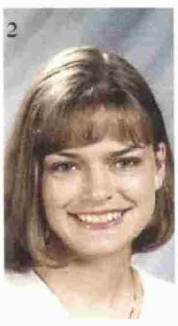
Guy Ramey, AFJROTC
Shelley Ray, FACS
Kari Regan, English
Melinda Reinhart, Performing Arts
Ruben Reyes, Security
Judy Riba, Nurse
Christopher Richardson, Social Studies
Nick Roberts, Special Education
Mark Robinson, Custodial

Patricia Robison, Science
Kathy Rock, Math
Glenda Rodriguez, Cafeteria
Susan Rosenwinkel, Cafeteria
Valetta Ross, Cafeteria
Sharon Row, Business
Kathey Russell, Cafeteria
Josh Sabinas, Science
Brenda Sanders, Cafeteria

Chicha Sanders, Special Education
Sherri Scartozzi, Secretary
Gary Schlinger, Science
Sandy Scholtens, Teacher Aide
Dan Schoon, Social Studies, MAP
Brad Seiss, Physical Education
Marica Sekuloska, Custodial
Charles Seligman, Math
Mando Semovski, Custodial

Melissa Sickinger, English
Kristina Sides, Academy Aide
Veronica Siwy, Physical Education
Alison Skertic, English
Constance Smith, Cafeteria
Kenny Smith, Instructional Aide
Pat Smith, FACS
Patricia Smith, Media Clerk
Robert Smith, Cafeteria

Guess who?



A. Brian Past

B. Lee Meyer

C. Carol Von Behren

D. Mike Krutz

E. Dave Teeter

F. Debbie Monix

Answers: 1. D, 2. F, 3. A, 4. E, 5. C, 6. B

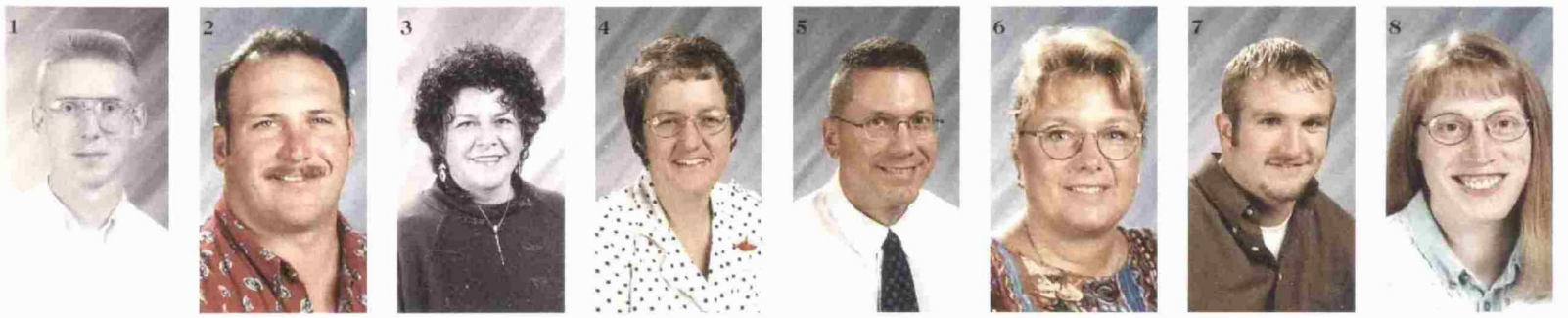
Rachel Sonnenberg, English
Jason Sonnenberg, English
Irene Spiro, World Languages
Dawnelle Spriggs, Teacher Aide
Samantha St. Aubin, English
Dean Stadt, Custodial
Debra Staffeld, Math
Sara Stallings, FACS
James Stamper, Assistant Principal

Zoran Stefanovic, Custodial
Mike Stills, Science
Michelle Sulich,
Assistant Principal, Guidance
Tom Sweet, Custodial
Melissa Szczerba, Special Education
Marnita Taylor, Assistant Principal
Tracy Taylor, Cafeteria
Dave Teeter, Graphic Arts
Charles Tomaszewski, Custodial

Paul Trembacki, English
Carolyn Trimble, Cafeteria
Jeff Trivette, Business
Patti Tubbs, FACS
Wanda Underhill, Cafeteria
Paul Unterfranz, English
Cheryl Ursery, Student Services
Melissa Valsi, Science
Beverly Van Drunen, Study Hall Aide

Joy Varela, Custodial
Mia Vinson, Cafeteria
Carol Von Behren, FACS
Maryann Wampler, Cafeteria
Ronda Waters, Science
Kerry Wiersbe, Guidance
Melissa Williams, Security
Alicia Williamson, Cafeteria
Sally Williamson, Science

Debra Willison, Main Office Secretary
Michelle Wilson, Guidance
Paul Wirtz, Social Studies
Evelyn Wofford, Cafeteria
Daniel Wrasman, AFJROTC
Esmeralda Zamora, World Languages
Brian Zdych, Physical Education
Joan Zerbe, Guidance Secretary



A. Debbie Klippel
B. Wade Boise
C. Gail Nicolini
D. Andrew Niksich
E. Joe Atria
F. Timothy James
G. Debra Staffeld
H. Michelle Wilson

Answers: 1. D, 2. E, 3. A, 4. G, 5. B, 6. G, 7. F, 8. H

We conquered

"*I came, I saw and I survived the halls of Merrillville. Make the best memories with your friends.*"

Kelsey Bennett

"*I felt like we had a pretty good chance to win, but of course, we got cheated by the Dough Boys.*"

Tyler Tanzymore

"*College is gonna be a struggle because high school is already a struggle. I actually have to study.*"

Wesley Babilonia

"Go to Graceland to see the Elvis shrine and his house."

Senior Bucket List

"*Seeing the people I grew up with.*"

Haley Funches

"***I'm excited to finally achieve something memorable: Graduation.***"

Elijah Ray

"**For the first two games, I was kind of nervous, but toward the last game, the crowd hyped my head up, and I started feeling myself.**"

Jelani Gibson

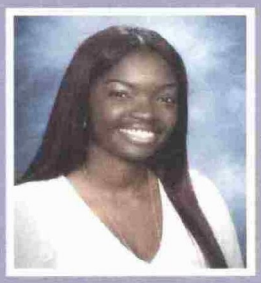
"*I'm going to miss the atmosphere and the people.*"

Nicholas Tanzymore

Student-Faculty Dodgeball Tournament

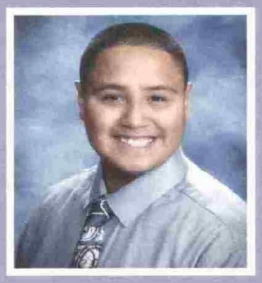
Briana Abbott

"Graduation is not the end. It's just the beginning."



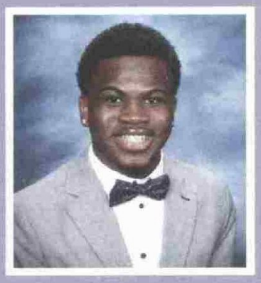
Maya Abdullah

"Water reflects your face, so your mind shows what kind of person you are."



Joseph Abeyta

"The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet."

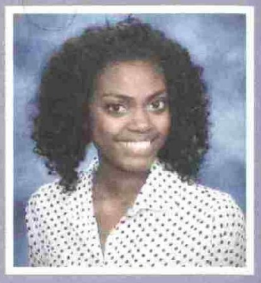


Darius Adams

"Through perseverance, hard work and determination, success will come my way."

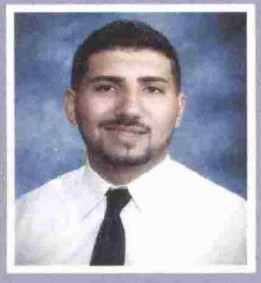
Miracle Akins

"Faith doesn't make it easy, it makes it better. I need all faith dealing with these classes and people."



Navia Alexander

"Like do I quote someone or just make up something?"



Subhi Ali

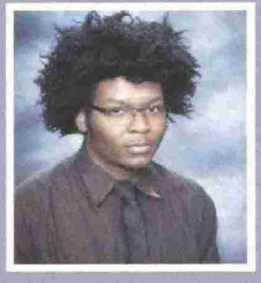
"Don't put anything stupid for your senior quote."

Chanita Allen

"The difference between the past and the future is you have the ability to change it for the better."

Alexis Anderson

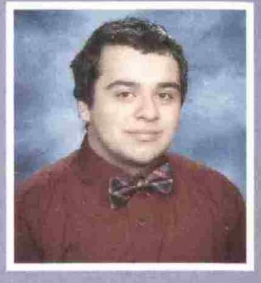
"Ambition on fleek. Attitude on geek."



Emmanual Anderson

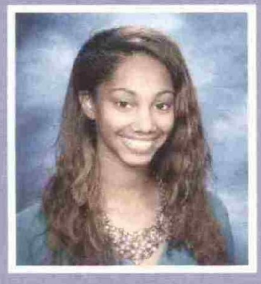
"I'm the melted ice cube at the bottom of your fridge that leaves you with sorrow and wet socks."

Ashton Anekwe



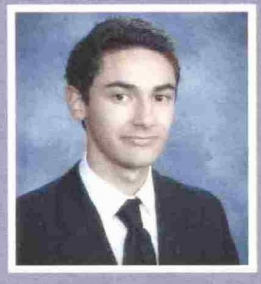
Tyler Argullin

"Four years later, and I still can't fill out a tax form."



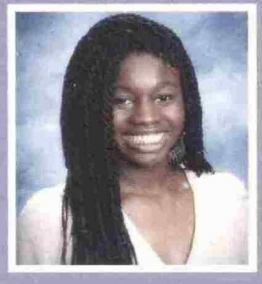
Alivia Ash

"I love my class and everyone in it! See y'all at the reunion, baby."



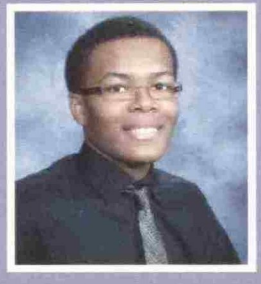
Wesley Babilonia

"When you remorse about the past, you get greedy ambitions toward the future."



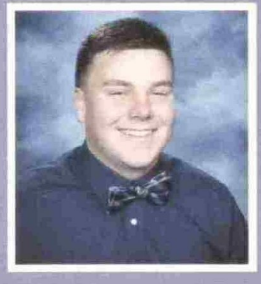
Devon Bailey

"If you are just safe about the choice you make, you don't grow."



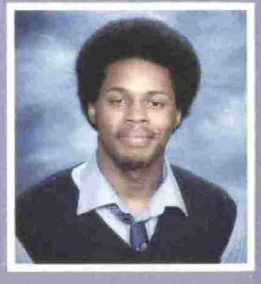
Keith Baker Jr.

"Don't let your dreams be dreams. Just do it!"



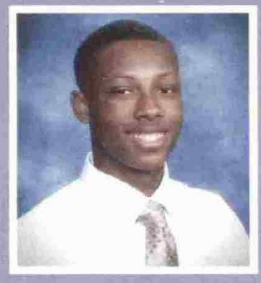
Brian Baran

"I've been told I look like a fat Channing Tatum."



Maximillian Barnes

"No matter what anyone says, do what you want and when you want. #decideyourfuture."

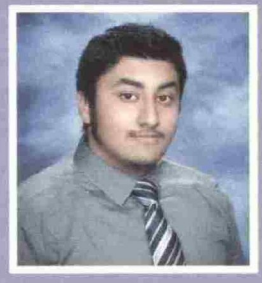


Philip Barnes Jr.

"Semper Fidelis."

Alize Beard

"I'm a nine, but at least I graduated!!"

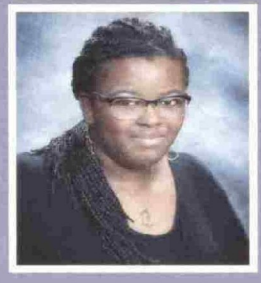


Mario Bedolla Jr.

"..."

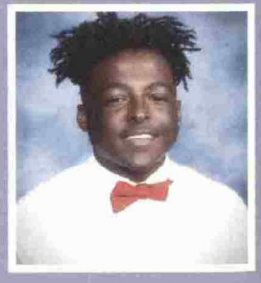
Adrianna Bell

"To love oneself is to know oneself."



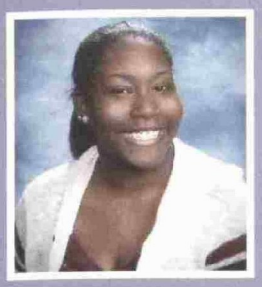
Brenna Bell

"Band is life."



Jason Bell Jr.

"We are not made wise by the recollection of our past, but the responsibility of our future."

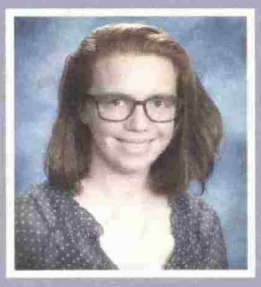


Kelsey Bennett

"I came, I saw, and I survived the halls of Merrillville. Make the best memories with your friends."

Jamie Bhe

"How lucky am I to have something that makes saying good-bye so hard."

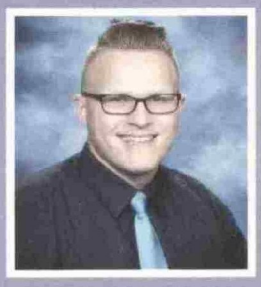


Laura Bier

"You can only fix your mistakes by changing your future."

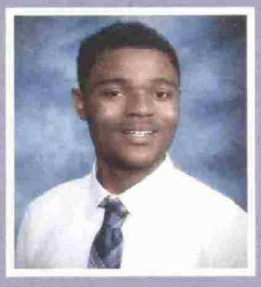
Aniya Billingsley

"Never give up."

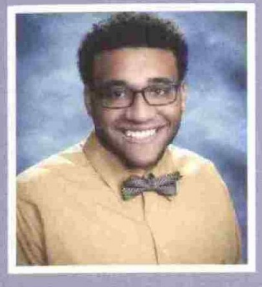


Brendon Bistrican

"Is this the Krusty Krab?"



Henry Blackman



Alphonso Blackwell

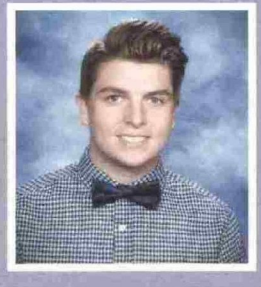
"The professor does it better."

Dominique Bland

"While some are dreaming of success, winners wake up."

Shania Blue

"Beauty is dangerous, but intelligence is lethal."

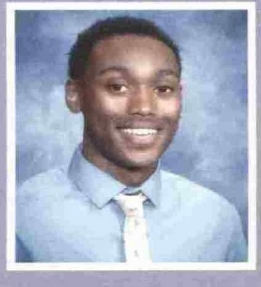


Brayden Boatwright

"No mercy."

Tionna Bond

"A day without laughter is a day wasted."



Victor-Jacolbi Boyd

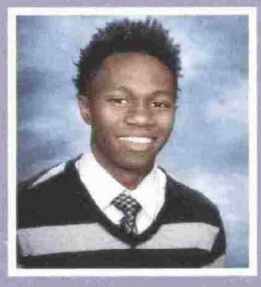
"Ballin' like I'm Kobe."

Amari Bradley

"First you get that money, then you get that power."

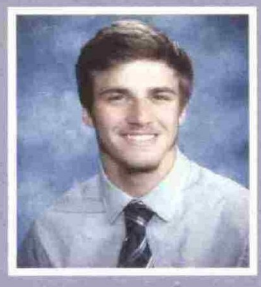
India Bradley

"Stay far from timid. Only make moves when your heart's in it. And live the phrase, 'Sky's the limit.'"



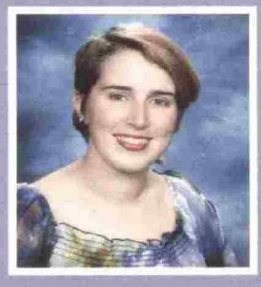
Joshua Bradley

"Be the leader, not the follower!"



Austin Brakley-Lain

"Stay in your lane."

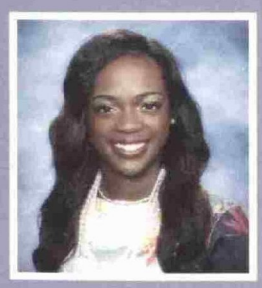


Melissa Brayfield

"If you're gonna fall, fall hard."

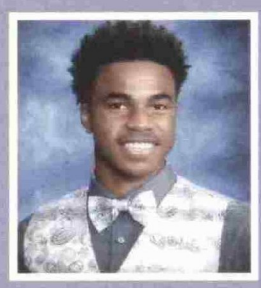
Lacy Bridgeman

"Be somebody who makes everybody feel like somebody."



Dyana Brinson

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

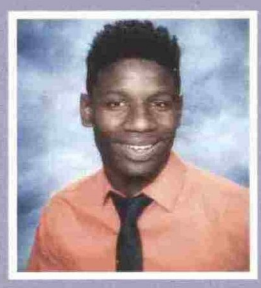


Adrian Brooks

"I'm producing mix tapes for the low."

Ariella Broom

"Live life on your terms."



Anthony Brown

"I'm skinny 'cause I ride on success."

Jazmine Brown

"Graduation is just the beginning to great things, at least to me."

Tatianna Brown

Jomaria Burns

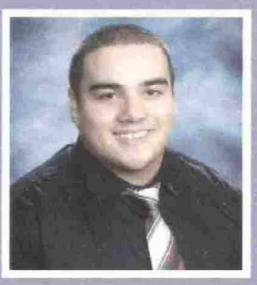
"What others say of me matters little; what I myself say and do matters much. Therefore, if I take care of my character, my reputation will take care of itself."

Kaila Byers

"Do not chase people. Be you and do your own thing."

Rosalia Cabello

"Saying yes to anything is easy. It's what you say no to that defines you."

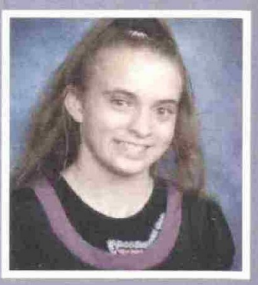


Oscar Cabrera Jr.

"Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened."

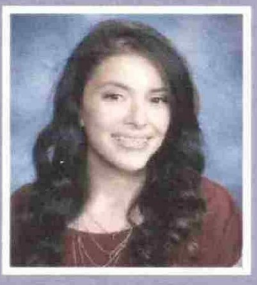
Brittney Cain

"Life is not a problem to be solved, but a reality to be explained."



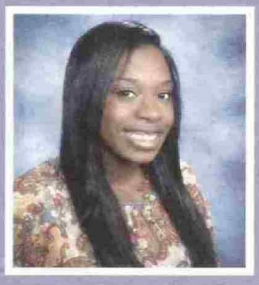
Cindy Cameron

"Cindy Lou Lou."



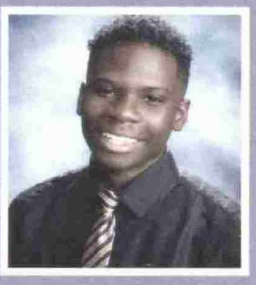
Anastasia Campos

"Remember that your career will never wake up and tell you that it doesn't love you anymore."



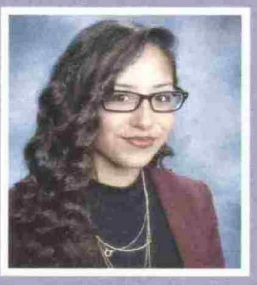
Dominique Carpenter

"Live, laugh, love."



Donovan Carpenter

"What she said."



Viridiana Carrillo

"Like the great Elvis Presley once said, 'You only pass through this life once. You don't come back for an encore.'"

Tanisa Carter

"Our minds are like parachutes. They only work when open."

Alana Charles

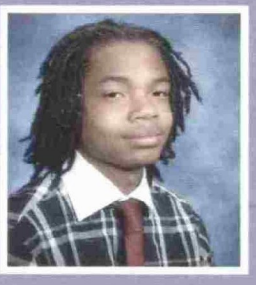
"There's no weird, just different."

Courtney Chavez

"At the end of the day, if you don't like what you're doing, you shouldn't do it."

Leslie Christie

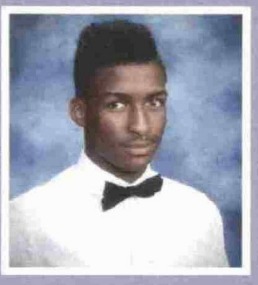
"If everyone gave more than they took, the world would be a better place."



Giovanni Clair

Ciara Clark

"Flawless."

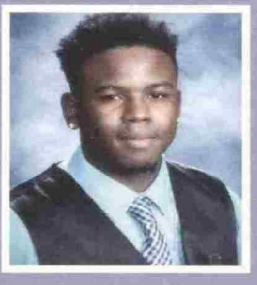


Gabriel Jordan Clark

"If you not talkin' 'bout money, can't hear what you say."

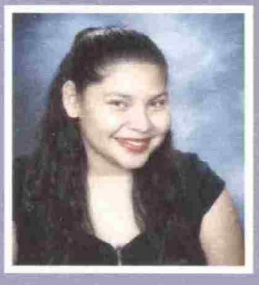
Jessica Cole

"Born sinner, was never to be perfect."



De'Shaun Coleman

"When you strive for greatness, anything is possible."

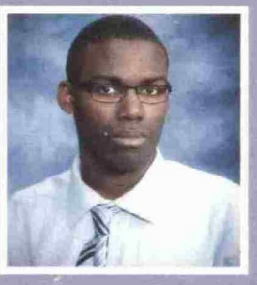


Victoria Colon

"She puts her headphones in and drowns the world out."

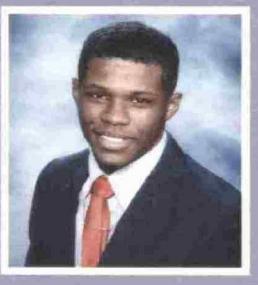
Arianne Conn

"I am Batman."



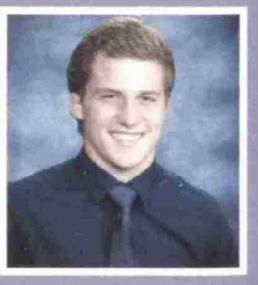
Deontai Cooper

"Your past doesn't describe you. It's your future that does."



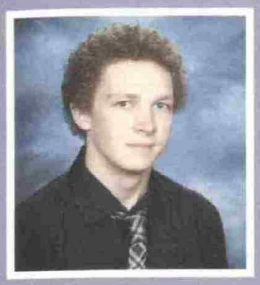
Antonio Cornelius Jr.

"Hard work takes time, but it doesn't take time to work hard."



Jacob Covaciu

"Life is a garden. Just dig it."



Casey Crane

"I'm only gonna miss like 15 of you."

Mirkeisha Crawford

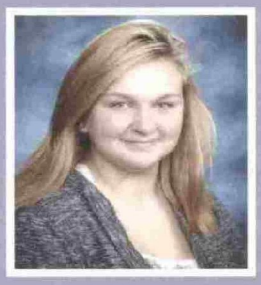
"Butterflies, butterflies and oatmeal."

Symantha Croy

"The funny thing is, I actually tried for this picture."

Cydney Cuthrell

"Be more concerned with your character than your reputation because your character is what you really are, while reputation is merely what others think you are."

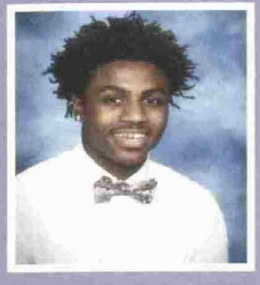


McKinzie Dalton

"You have to be odd to be number one."

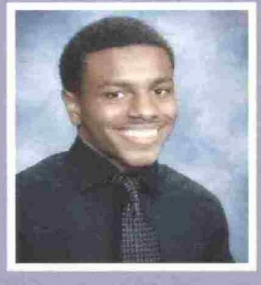
Anna Davis

"Check Time magazine in 10 years. I'll be on the cover."



Jermaine Davis II

"Work hard. Stay humble."

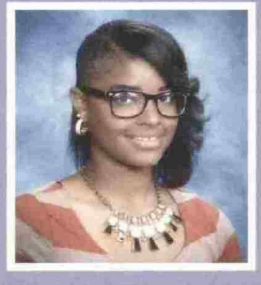


Linus Davis

"I failed in order to succeed."

Talia Davis

"I'm always smiling. Ain't got nothing to frown about."

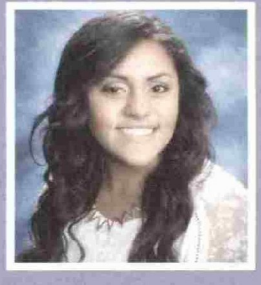


Allanisette Dawson

"Life flies by. Don't miss your plane."

Jada Day

"The best and the most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart."

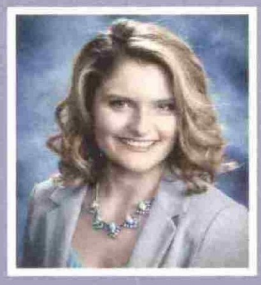


Marlana de Moraes Emiliano

"Live life for the experience."

Alexis Delk

"Direct my footsteps according to your word. Let no sin rule over me."

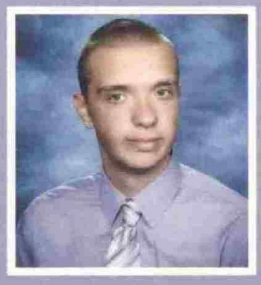


Danielle Dewees

"I'm sorry that everyone is so jealous of me, but I can't help that I'm so popular."

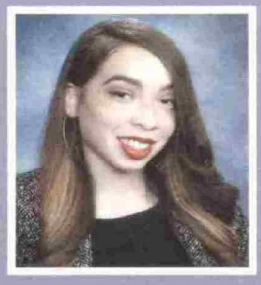
Deanetra Dixon

"Wish my GPA looked like my bank account."



Nicholas Doneski

"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, but today is a gift. That's why we call it the present."



Amber Drake

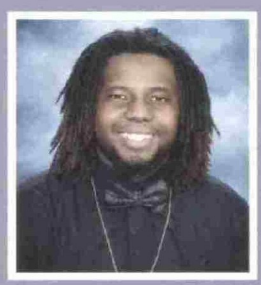
"Dare to be different."

Selena Drake

"All my friends passed because of me!"

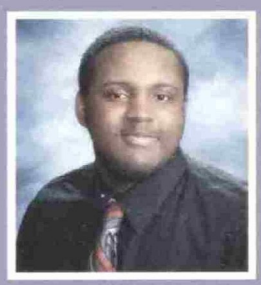
Jada Duff

"I eat my rice and cabbage, 2K16 baby!"



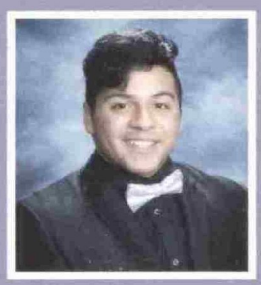
Kameron Duke

"Never stop succeeding."



Cameron Dunlap

"Live life to the fullest. No regrets."

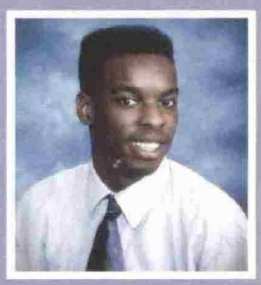


Raymond Duque Jr.

"All you have to do is take it day by day."

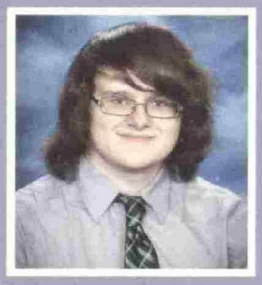
Arielle Dye

"Life is about making good decisions."



Vernice Eastland

"My time is now."



Zachary Feign

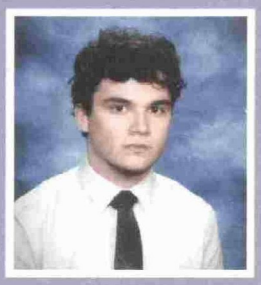
"[SAMPLE TEXT]"

Miquel Ferguson

"Sensational."

Andrea Fernandez

"Sometimes you wake up. Sometimes the fall kills you. And sometimes, when you fall, you fly."

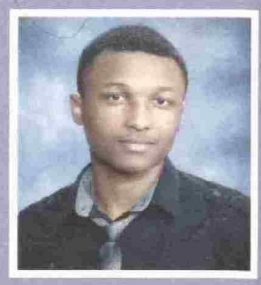


David Froglia

"Listen to the kids."

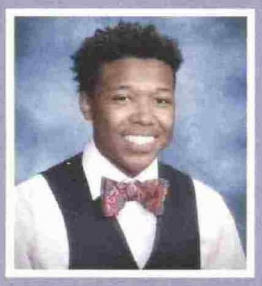
Haley Funches

"The world is a stage, and we're all its actors. It's up to you whether you take the spotlight."



Nicholas Gagliano

"The little things are infinitely the most important."

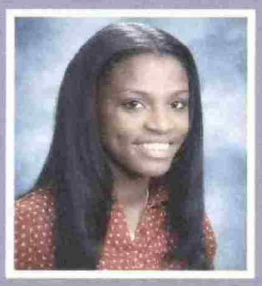


Jelani Gibson

"Confidence is key. You either fake it or make it."

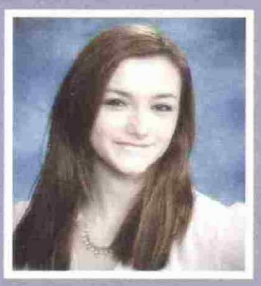
Kiaeysha Gibson

"No matter what, shorty do you."



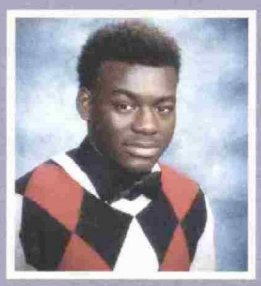
Ke ara Gill

"You only have one life. Make the absolute best of it."



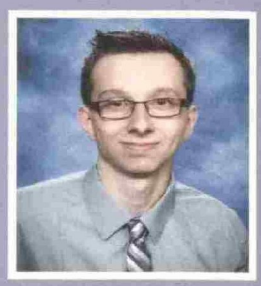
Emily Glover

"I'm actually not funny. I'm just really mean, and people think I'm joking."



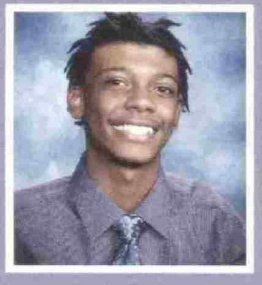
Justen Gordon

"This is the beginning of my new journey."



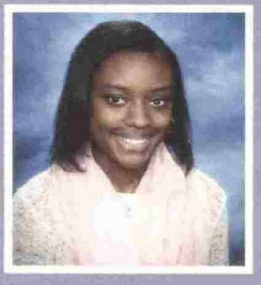
Kevin Gouwens

"All you have to do is BELIEVE."



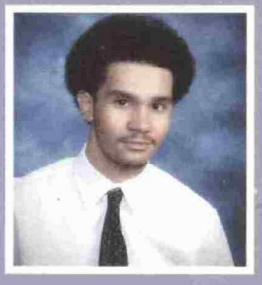
Justin Grady

"Make each decision with no regrets."

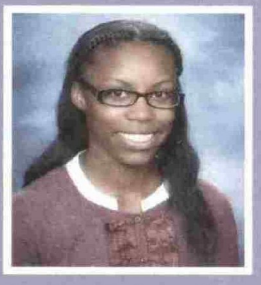


Riayn Greene

"You've got to think high to rise. You've got to be sure of yourself before you'll ever win a prize."



Tyler Greer

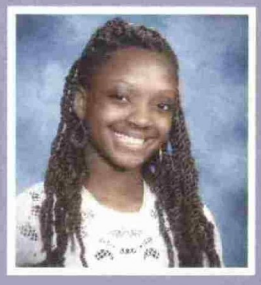


Christian Gridiron

"Nothing in life is promised."

Kayla Griffith

"Keep smiling because life is a beautiful thing, and there's so much to smile about."

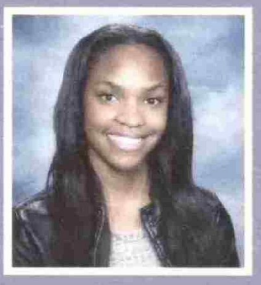


K.A.V.E.'T. Grooms

"In the end, we only regret the chances we didn't take."

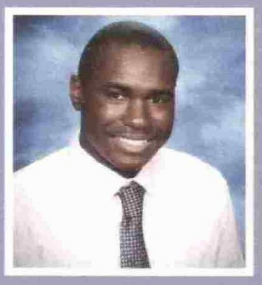
Jacqueline Gutierrez

"Today, you are you. That is truer than true. There is no one alive who is more you than you."



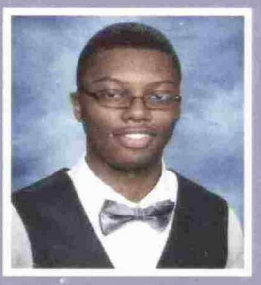
Aaliyah Hall

"Don't spend your adulthood trying to undo your childhood."



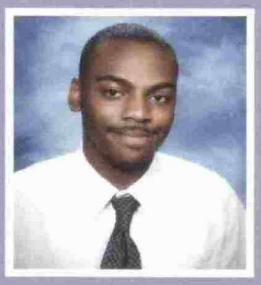
Anthony Hardin

"Don't be an extra in your own movie. Be the star!"



Eriq Harris

"I dream too big to live an average life."

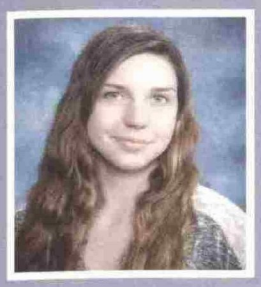


Robert Harris Jr.

"Be yourself and be who you are, no matter what."

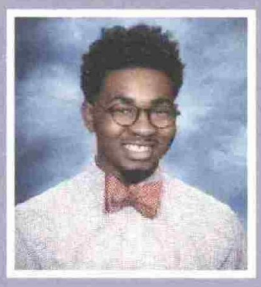
Casey Harvey

"Success isn't owned. It's leased, and rent is due everyday."



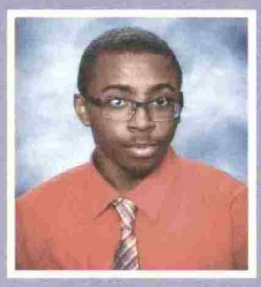
Alanna Heath

"Fall down seven times, stand up eight."



De Eryl Henderson

"You may write me down in history with your bitter, twisted lines. You may trod me in the very dirt, but still, like dust, I'll rise." Maya Angelou

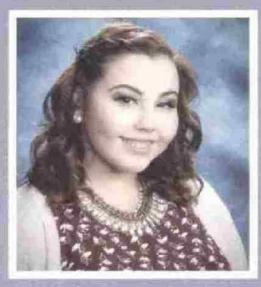


Michael Henderson Jr.

"Success is determined by hard work and dedication."

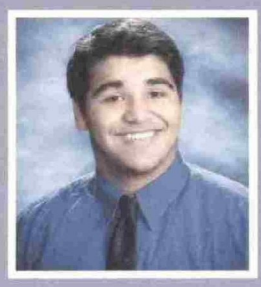
Samia Henley

"The future is for us."



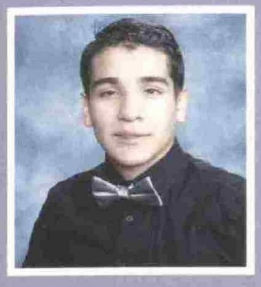
Alexis Henney

"Life isn't perfect, but your outfit can be."



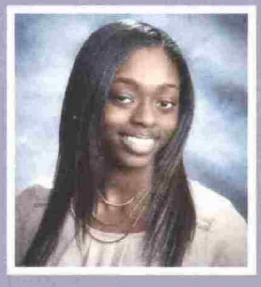
Andrew Hernandez

"Try your hardest and don't quit anything."



Isaiah Hernandez

"Be confident in what you think you're best in."



Brittany Hicks

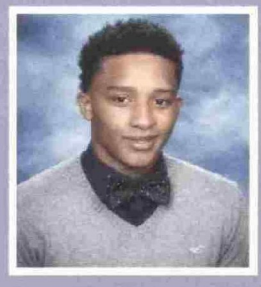
"Life is what you make it."

Maya Hill

"She doesn't even go here."

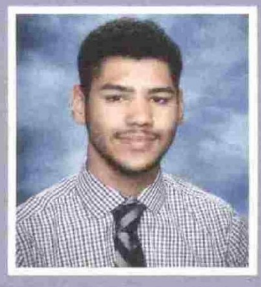
Me'Oesha Hill

"To learn to succeed, you must first learn to fail."



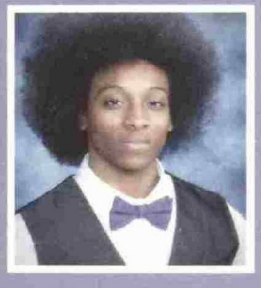
Joshua Hiller

"Just imagine an inspirational senior quote from me."



David Hinton II

"Hannah Montana said nobody's perfect. Well, here I am."

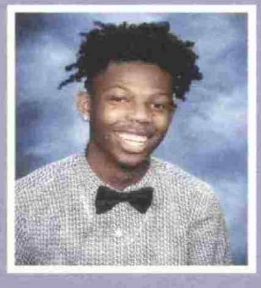


Diamonta Hodge

"Fill your cup with life. Just don't let it overflow."

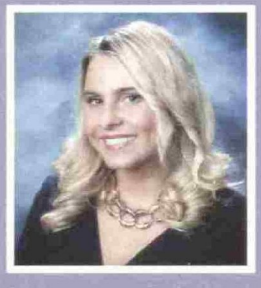
Ya'Nique Holden

"HMU baby!"



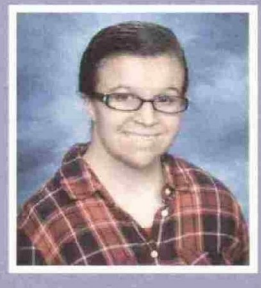
Sharod Holmes Jr.

"I'm just trying to make my birthdays a lifestyle." Drake



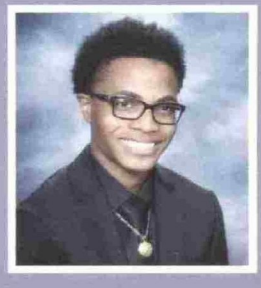
Tiffany Holst

"I'm going to stand outside. So if anyone asks, I am outstanding."



Chloe Howard

"To create one's world in any of the arts takes courage."



Anfernee Hudson

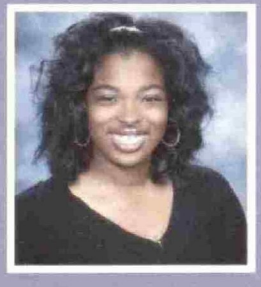
"What is the name of your clothing line? We don't know!"

Brandy Hughes

"When school gets tough."

Dashance' Hunter

"Just live you life."

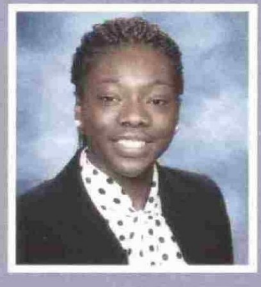


Tammiah Ingram

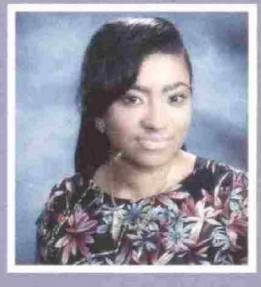
"Don't wait for the perfect moment. Take the moment and make it perfect."

Timisha Ivie

"Let everything happen to you. Beauty and terror. Just keep going. No feeling is final."



Ashiala Jackson

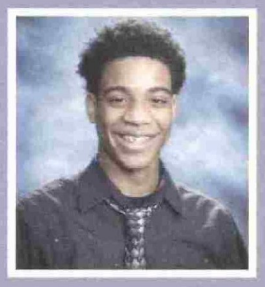


Jo Anna Jackson

"Be a girl with a mind, a woman with attitude and a lady with class."

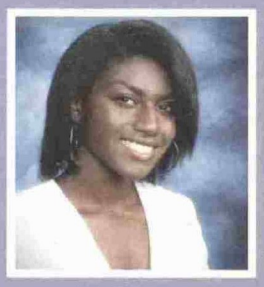
Sharice Jackson

"How could you love someone else before loving yourself first?"



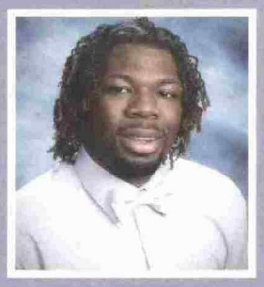
Charles Jacobs II

"Congrats on being one of the 'cool kids' in high school. Too bad about the rest of your life, though."



Eryn Jenkins

"When you hit rock bottom, the only place left to go is up."

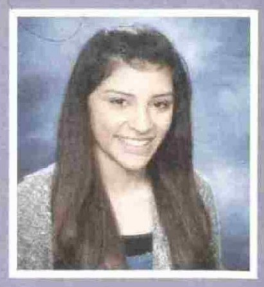


Maurice Jenkins

"Jeremiah 29:11, word from my grandmother."

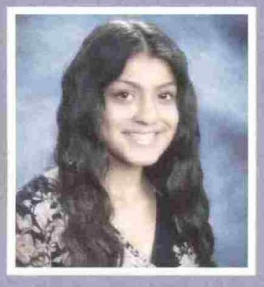
Patrice Jenkins

"She turned her can'ts into cans and her dreams into plans."



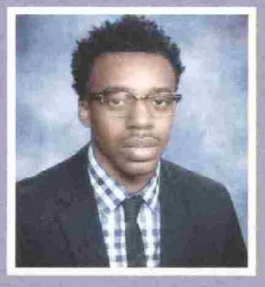
Leticia Jimenez

"I really love Chick-fil-a."



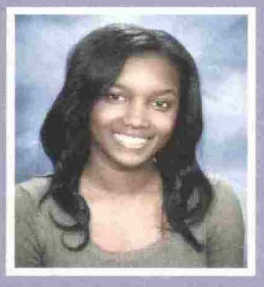
Mariah Jimenez

"Our lives are before us, our past is behind us, but our memories are forever with us."



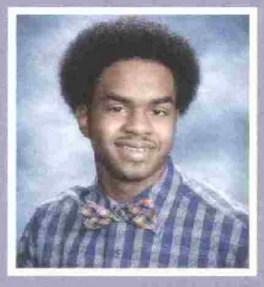
Derreke Johnson

Jada Johnson



Khaylan Johnson

"If they don't know your dreams, they can't shoot them down."



Marchaun Johnson Jr.

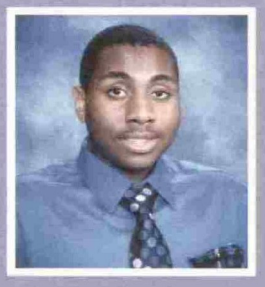
"It better to be known than unnoticed."

Arkayla Jones

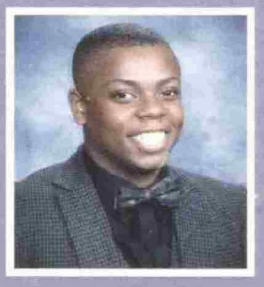
"If you ain't talking money, we can't talk."

Jailyn Jones

"Life is like a camera. Focus on what's important, capture the good times, develop from the negatives, and if they don't work out, take another shot."

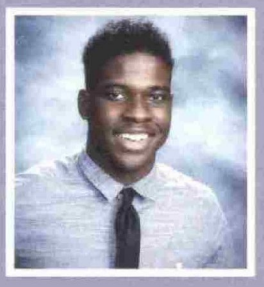


Jaylen Jones



Jayson Jones

"When you leave here, don't forget where you came from."

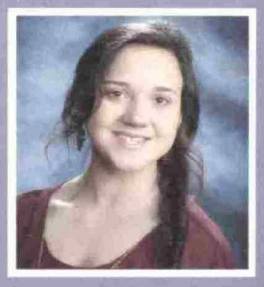


Thomas Jones

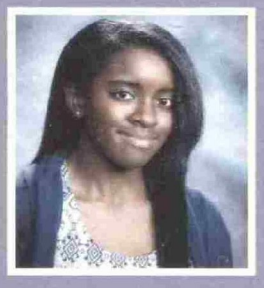
"Love on my mind and mind in my heart."

Monica Juarez

"You're the captain of your fate, but the master of your destiny."



Hunter Kaiser

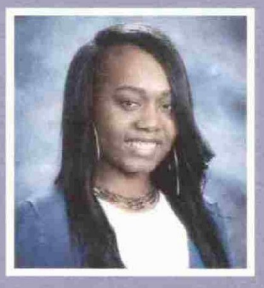


Amber King

"It is what it is, and it'll be what it'll be."

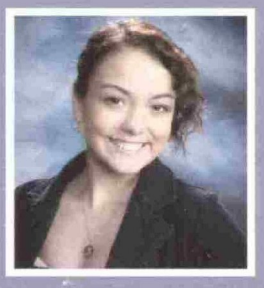
Odestine King

"Half of ya'll was Queens, but I'm a King."



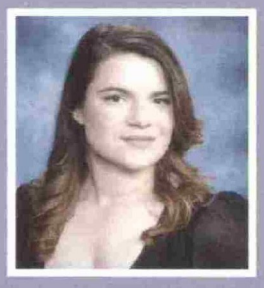
LaTavia Knight

"My earrings are bigger than your future house."



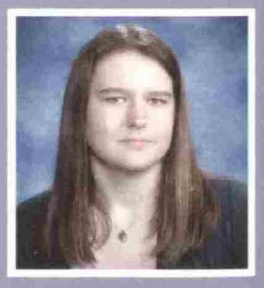
Rebecca Knight

"It doesn't matter where you are. You are nowhere compared to where you can go."



Hope Krajnak

"I'll cry at the end of the day. Not with fresh makeup."

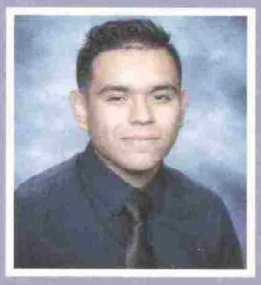


Alexis Krutz

"Be yourself."

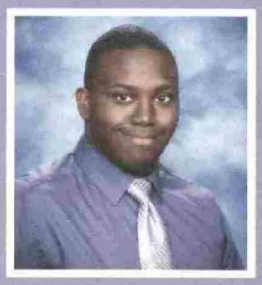
Rachel Kyles

"Live while you're young, God first."



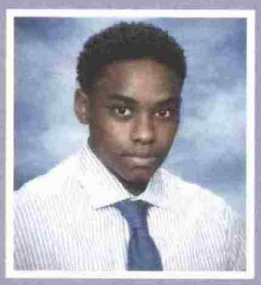
David Lagunas

"#GetACredit"



Darren Latiker

"Thanks for the great years."

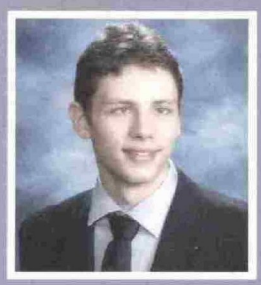


Anthony Lee

"Hold fast to dreams."

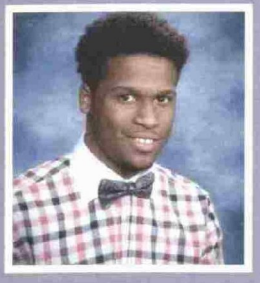
D'Nay Lightning

"Ain't no price to peace of mind."



Jonathan Lipp

"There are so many things to do, but almost none have room for mistakes."

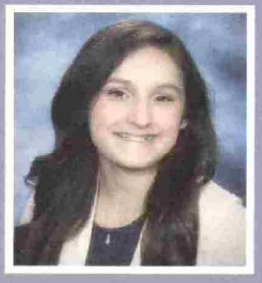


Brandon Long Jr.

"Stay far away from timid, only make moves when your heart's in it and live the phrase 'sky's the limit'."

Lauren Lopez

"I am not Asian."



Alysa Lucero

"Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but rising every time we fall."

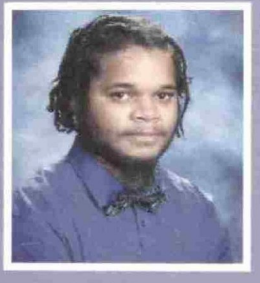
Yvonne Luna

"Be who you are and say what you feel because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind."

Chamar Maclin

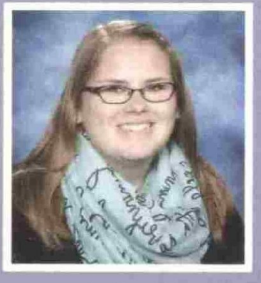
Veronica Magallanes

"Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself."



Jalin Major

"All is well that ends well."

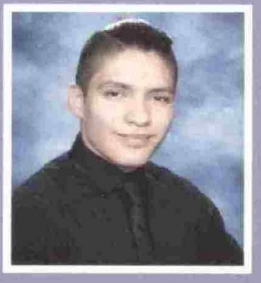


Jillian Manis

"We were born to be real, not to be perfect."

Jazlyn Martinez

"Pageant girls keep it classy and sassy, but never trashy."



Miguel Martinez

"Live without fear. Love without limits."

Marrisa McClelland

"These things do happen."

Erika McClinton

"Love yourself, girl, or nobody will."

Jordan McDonald

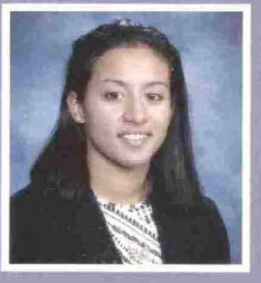
"All my life, I had to fight. Not people, but grades."

Malik McMullan

"Calm down."

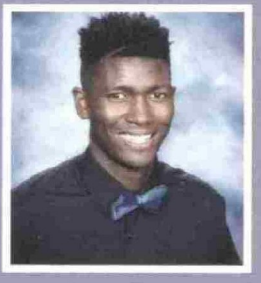
Ashley Mendez

"There are two ways you can get through pain. You can let it destroy, or you can use it as fuel to drive you to dream bigger, work harder." -T.S.



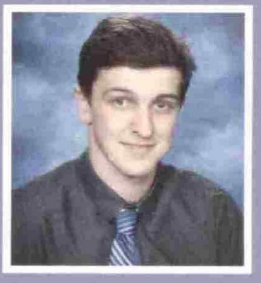
Tirsa Mercado

"All I can do is be me, whoever that is."



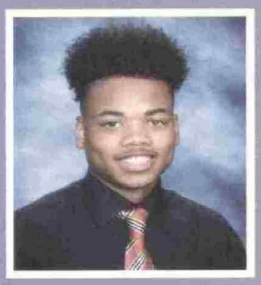
Matthew Meux

"Life is like baseball. Three strikes and you're out."



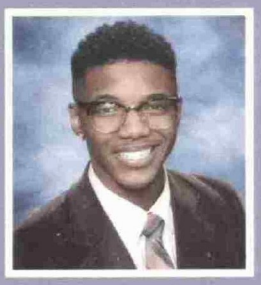
Michael Mezydlo

"I knew it was you the whole time."



Reginald Miller Jr.

"I made it!"

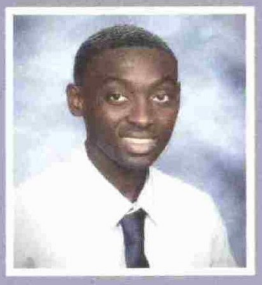


Rashawn Mills

"Be well-dressed and pursue success. P.S. I'll have a Grammy some day."

Kapreacia Mims

"Lord, forgive those who know not what they do."

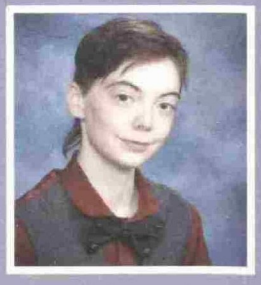


Dondre Minnion

"Work hard, think less."

Raemere Mitchell

"Bad things happen and you can't do anything about them."

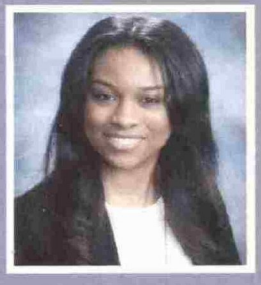


Bree Montgomery

"If it bleeds, you have no reason to be afraid of it."

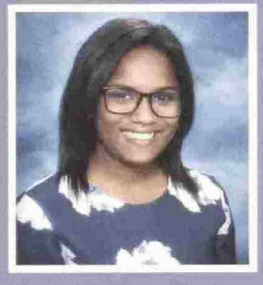
Jayna Moore

"You can dream all you want, but it's nothing if you don't achieve it."



Deja Morris

"Live for what you create and die protecting it."

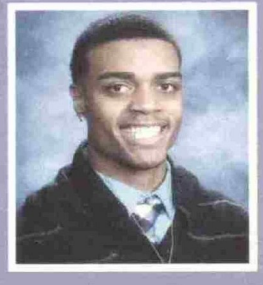


Nicole Moss

"The main thing is to be moved, to love, to hope, to tremble and to live."

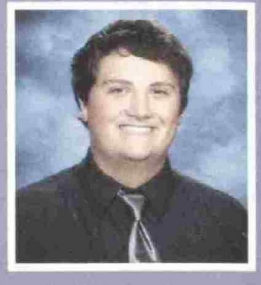
Angel Munchenburg

"Butterflies hover and feathers appear whenever ya girl ANGEL is here!"



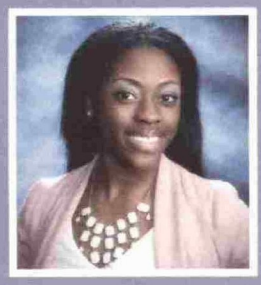
Adam Neal

"True desire in the heart to do anything good is God's proof to you, sent beforehand, to indicate that it's yours already. Claim it."



Sean Noonan

"Do fun things in life."

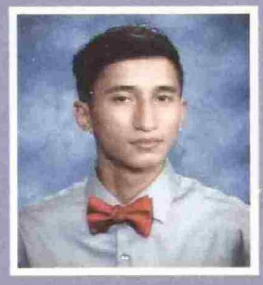


Ashley Ojo

"Things change and friends leave. Life doesn't stop for anybody."

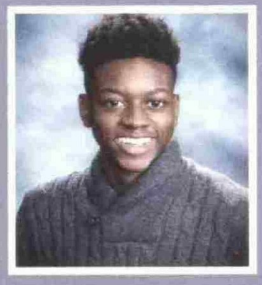
Alyssa Ortiz

"Live your life for you, not for anyone else."



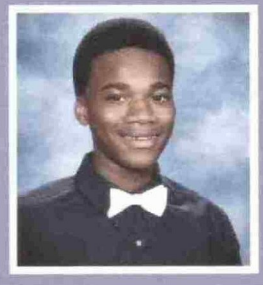
Jorge Osoria Jr.

"I learned all about life with a ball at my feet."



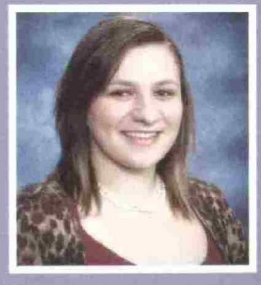
Nicholas Owens

"To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift."



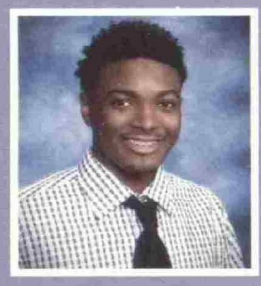
Kody Parkham

"Coming in second place is just being first to lose."



Brianna Pearson

"Everything happens for a reason."

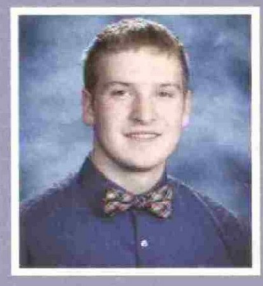


Michael Pearson Jr.

"It is what it is."

Paris Pearson

"Smile. It's much easier than explaining why you're sad."

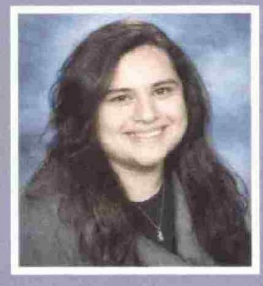


Brandon Pelaquin

"Help! I'm trapped in a fortune cookie factory."

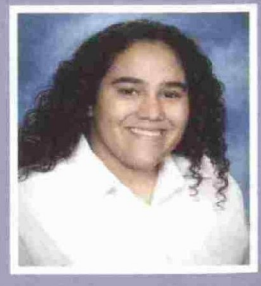
Vanessa Peluyera

"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you imagined."



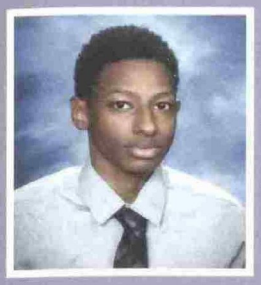
Natally Perez

"Live to be better, not bitter."



Nazaraih Perez

"I'm a lover and a fighter. I love what I fight for, and I fight for what I love."



DeVion Perry

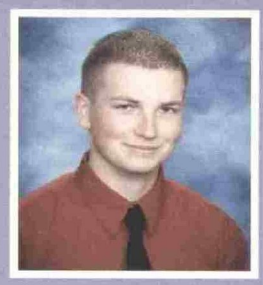
"Your actions speak better than your words."

Adriana Peterson

"Always push yourself to succeed."

Frida Pineda

"La vida es una aventura maravillosa."



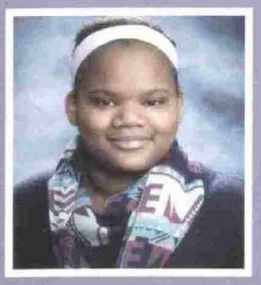
Zachary Plude

Armonni Pollard

"Esthetical woman with a million-dollar dream."

Jailyn Pope

"Don't wait for the perfect moment. Take the moment and make it perfect."

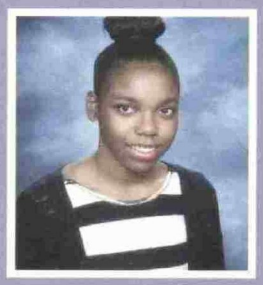


Deanne Porter

"Live every moment like it's your last."

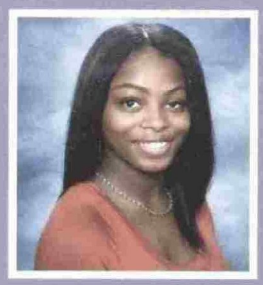
Mariya Pratt

"Carpe diem."



Jaliyah Price

"We're happy, free, confused and lonely at the same time."



Sarah Price

"Stop worrying about what you have to lose and start focusing on what you have to gain."

Chelsey Primm

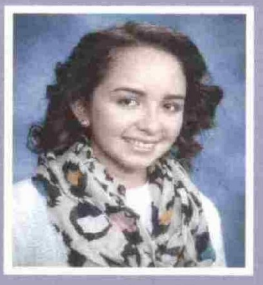
"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

Tiara Pruitt

"See, kids, I told you your mom was fine back in the day."

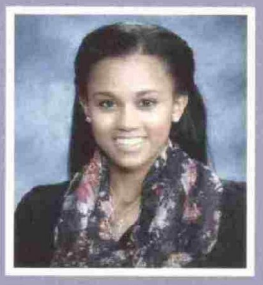
Imani Purnell

"Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving."



Claribell Quinones

"NO, THIS IS PATRICK!"

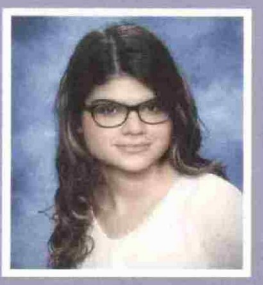


Brianna Raketic

"Sincerely yours, The Breakfast Club."

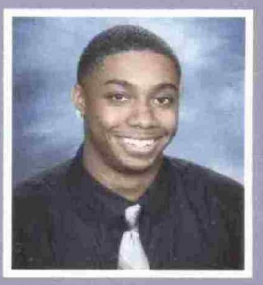
Sara Ramirez

"Oh, well, maybe next year."



Marrisa Ramos

"Treat. Yo. Self. 2016."



Louis Rand Jr.

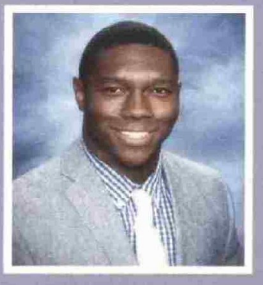
"If it ain't worth working for, it ain't real."

Aryana Randall

"You will face many defeats in your life, but never let yourself be defeated."

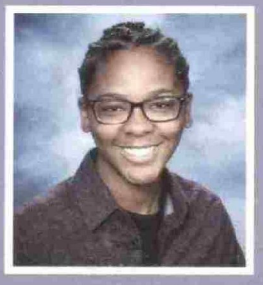
Brianna Rangel

"Life's not about waiting for the storm to pass, but learning to dance in the rain."



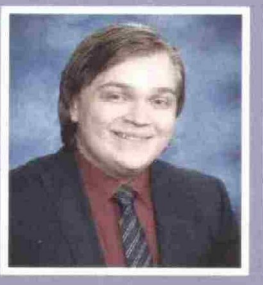
Elijah Ray

"Don't judge a book by its cover."



Rayana Reed

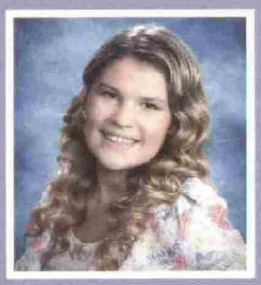
"Life and high school are like a race. That's why we're called the human race."



Jacob Reinhart

"Enjoy your faults. They're what separate you from the rest of the world, and that's what makes you special."

Layke Reynolds



DeLaney Richards

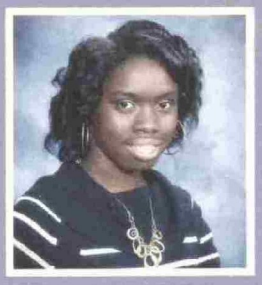
"Guys, I think I have a concussion..."

Kayvin Richards

"In order to enjoy the rainbow, you have to endure the rain."

A'ona Richardson

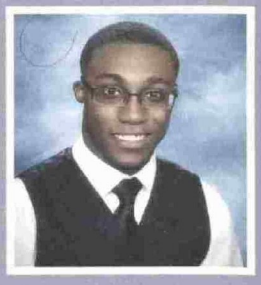
"In the end, we only regret the chances we didn't take."



Ciora Richardson

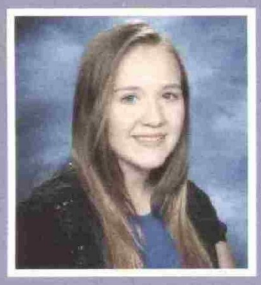
La'ish Richardson

"A goal without a plan is just a wish."



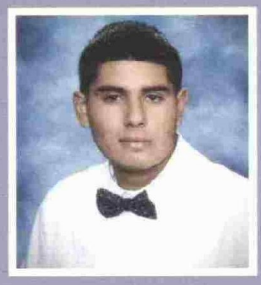
Theodore Roberts

"Everyone should know that they're awesome."



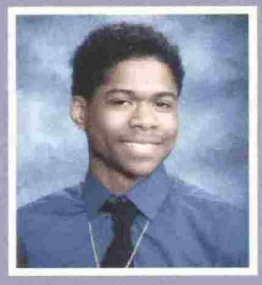
Bethany Rochefort

"Who cares, anyway?"



Adrian Rodriguez

"I've moved only a little, yet I've seemed to have gone so far."

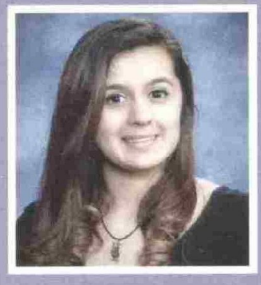


Tomas Rodriguez Jr.

"Do your best in everything you do, and you'll be successful."

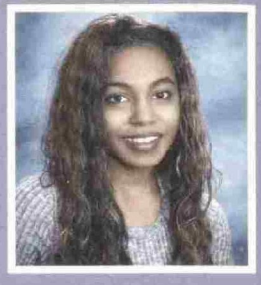
Brandon Root

"Veni. Vidi. Vici."



Aubren Rosas

"Bears. Beat. Battle. Star Galactica."



Najma Rainey

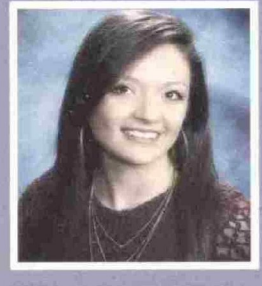
"I came up, a little change, but I never changed up."

Brittney Rzepczynski

"Beauty is in the eye of the beholder."

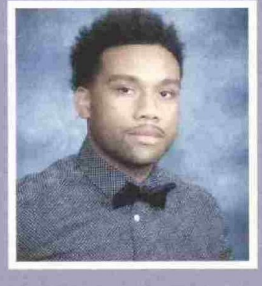
Tyhlar Sain

"Tyhlar, not Tyler, and I'm not INSAIN."



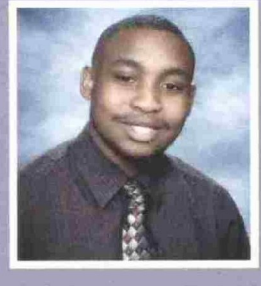
Sabrina Sanchez

"Live in every moment like it's your last."



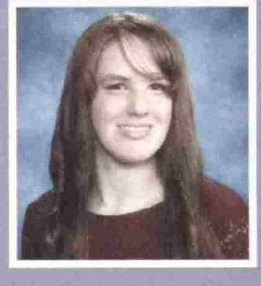
Cornelius Sanders Jr.

"If you're good at something, never do it for free."



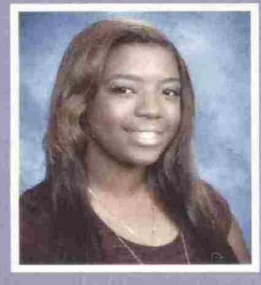
Christian Savage

"Gotta catch 'em all."



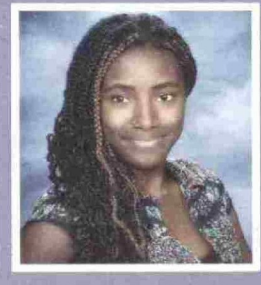
Hannah Sawyer

"Life is a big, gigantic stinkin' mess, but that's the beauty of it."



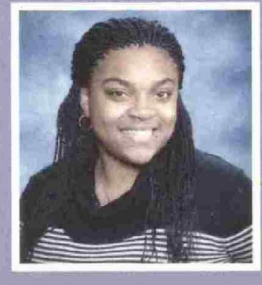
DeAyne Scaife

"Speak from your heart, never compromise what you feel is real."



Casllie Scott

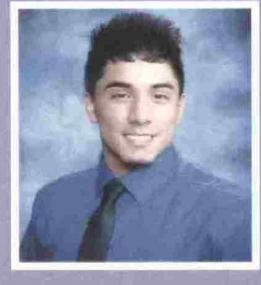
"Enjoy the little things."



Jaketa Scott

Miaya Scott

"You're all going to regret not dating me in high school."

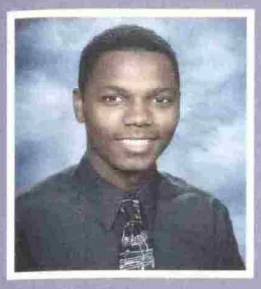


Adam Serros

"How original..."

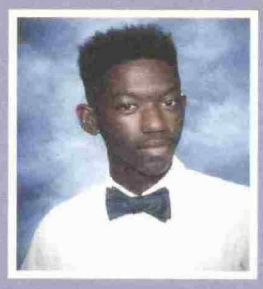
Kylah Shackelford

"If you have enemies, then you're doing something right."



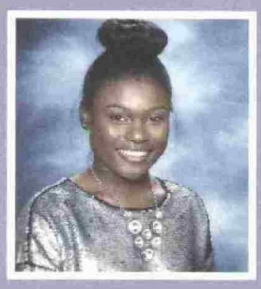
Michael Shannon II

"If a future version of yourself doesn't stop you, then how bad a decision are you really making?"



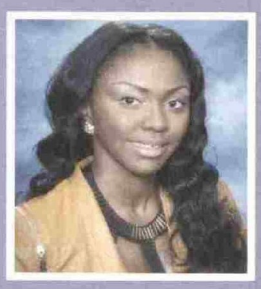
Derel Shell

"Give me my space. I ain't got time to chase all these dreams. All these dreams, I got no time to waste."



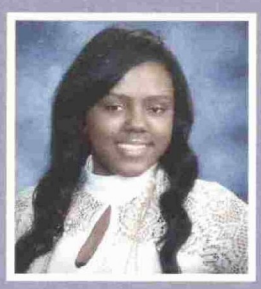
Bryanna Shelton

"Me talk pretty one day."



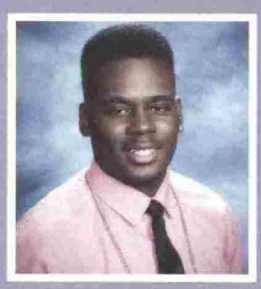
Dakota Shelton

"Work hard in silence. Let success make the noise."



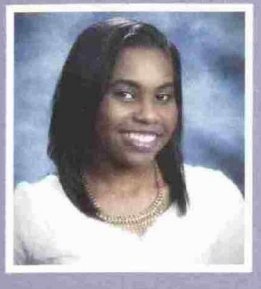
Sydney Sheppard

"Tbh, we aren't all in this together. So make the best of it."



Marcellis Simmons

"Loved playing football and being a Pirate."

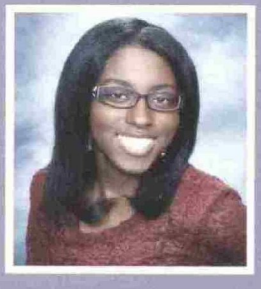


Armen Sims

"Live for today. Plan for tomorrow."

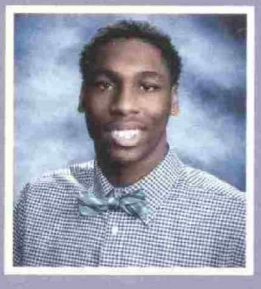
Deja Sims

"Ignore all hatreds and criticism. Live for what you create and die protecting it."



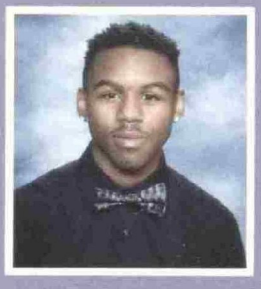
Kayla Sims

"High school goes very fast."

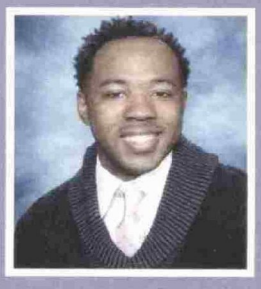


Matthew Sims

"Be first, because nobody remembers second."



Breon Smith



Davon Smith

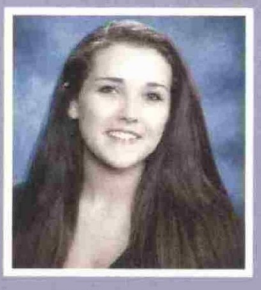
"Live with no regrets."

Ireon Smith

"Every breath is a second chance."

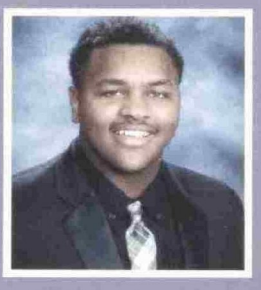
Nicole Smith

"Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence."



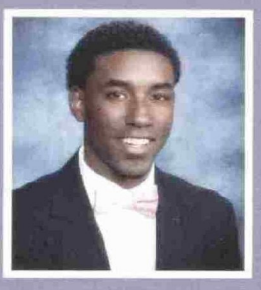
Sarah Smith

"Kids these days."



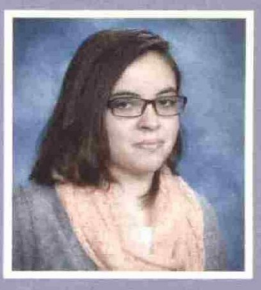
Shamari Smith

"Live your life. You'll die soon."



Thomas Smith Jr.

"When life gives you lemons, throw them at pedestrians."



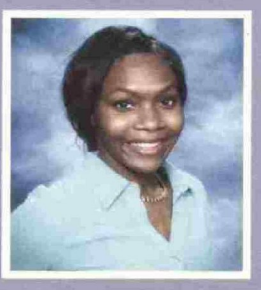
Rebekah Soto

"Being true to yourself never runs out of style."

Khaila Southall

"New beginnings, on to a new chapter."

Taylor Span



Leticia Starks

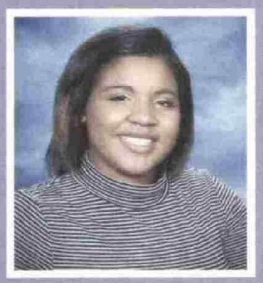
"Never give up on what you believe in."

Gabrielle Stewart

"I'm the hottest. I'm just being honest."

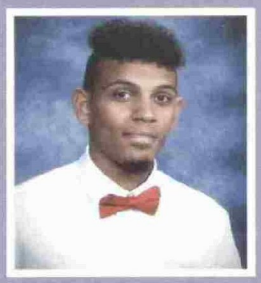
Regan Strong

Riley Strong



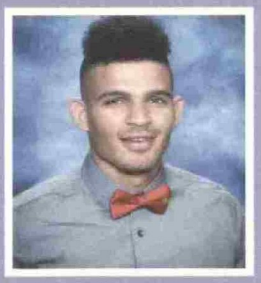
Sydnee Stubbs

"Just get out of here."



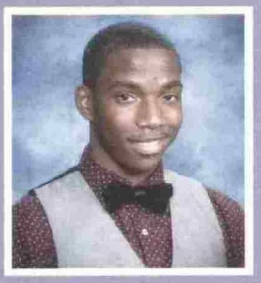
James Sutherland III

"One day, the people that didn't believe in you will tell everyone how they met you."



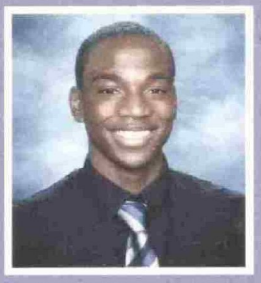
Jonathan Sutherland

"What my brother said."



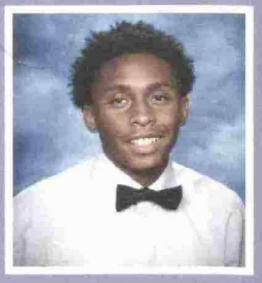
Nicholas Tanzymore

"We didn't choose the twin life..."



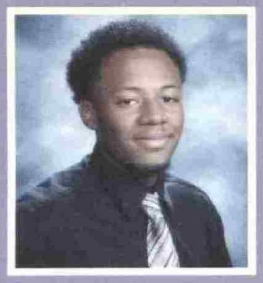
Tyler Tanzymore

"... The twin life chose us."



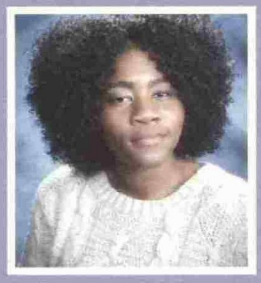
Dalin Tape

"Everybody wants you to be perfect, but not themselves."



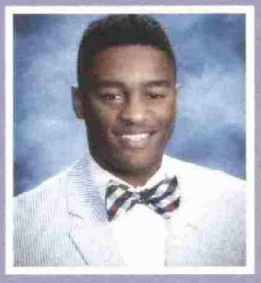
Isaiah Taylor

"For the new generation, be good and do better at what you do."



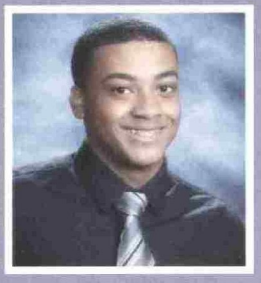
Mackayla Taylor

"Apply yourself."



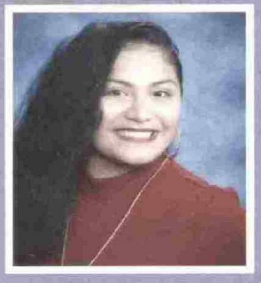
Myles Taylor

"Something deep."



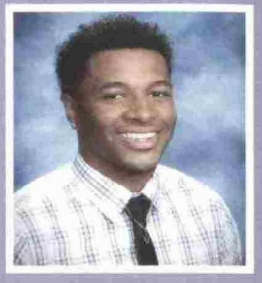
Ryan Taylor

"Try, try, try again."



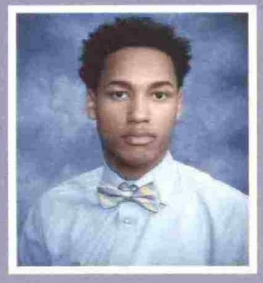
Angela Terry

"Be at peace, not in pieces."



Isaiah Thornton

"When I was young, I thought that money was the most important thing in life; now that I'm old, I know that it is!"

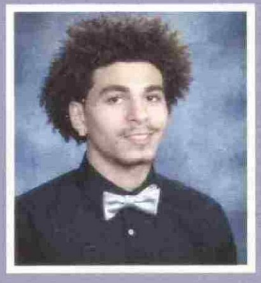


Michael Thornton

"You will never find time for anything. If you want time, you must make it."

Angelic Tillman

"I'm never pleased with anything. I'm a perfectionist. It's who I am."

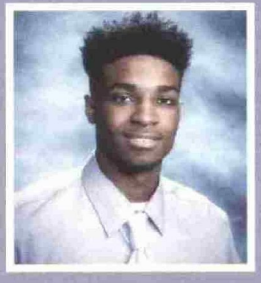


Matthew Tobias

"Always give it your best effort no matter what."

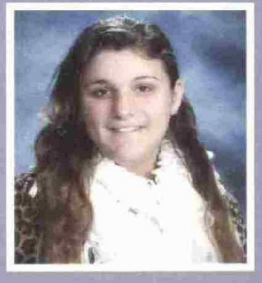
Angel Townson

"Nothing is impossible. The word itself says, 'I'm possible.'"



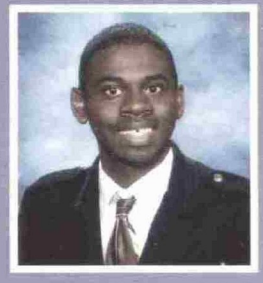
Anthony Tucker Jr.

"How original, Serros... How original."



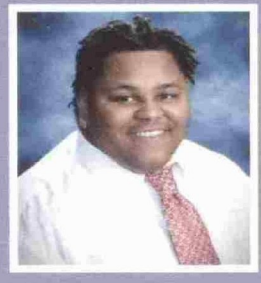
Mary Turcotte

"Never a loss, always a blessing"



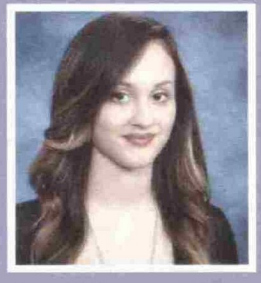
Rontrell Turner

"I have faith to believe."



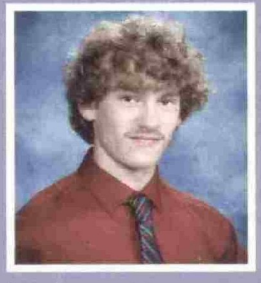
Sonni Tyson II

"Be all you can be."

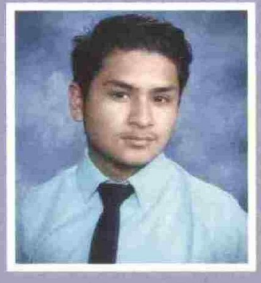


Alexandria Umbarger

"Alis volat propriis."



John Unmisig

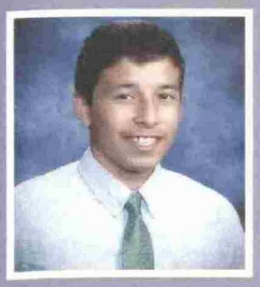


Edgar Valdez

"If you can imagine it, you can achieve it. If you can dream it, you can become it."

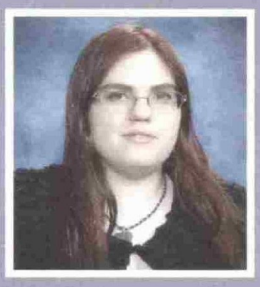
Kiendra Valentine

"You only live once."



Jacob Vallejo

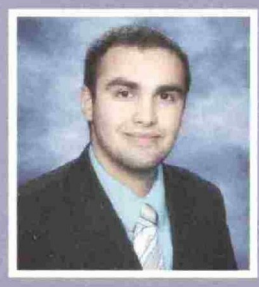
"Live life like every day is your last."



Nicole Van Nortwick

"Plant trees you know you'll never sit under the shade of."

Terhannia Vaughn



Arturo Velasco

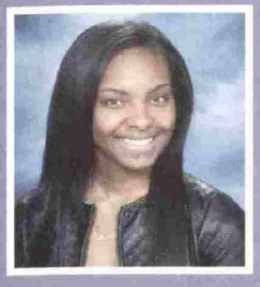
"Roses are red, violets are blue. I made it through senior year, and so did you."

Katrina Wallace

"This wasn't like 'High School Musical' at all."

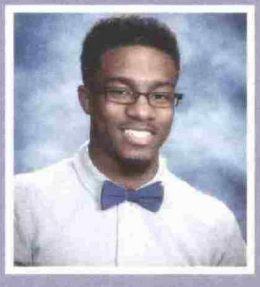
Mary Ann Wallace

"You're lucky enough to be different, never change!"



Allyssa Walls

"There's no one I'd rather be than me."



David Walls

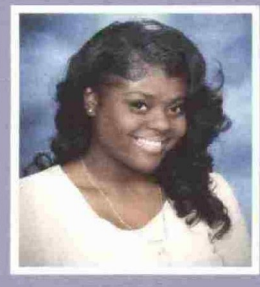
"Have fun, and think spontaneously."

Ashley Walton

"Don't quote me, but I'm pretty sure I'm always right."

Raven Warren

"To be yourself, you have to forget everyone else."

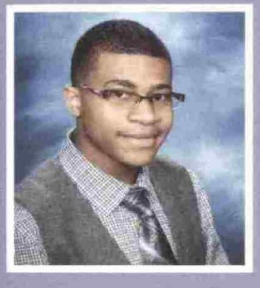


Micaela Watson

"Always be fabulous, like ME!"

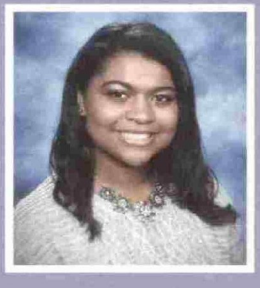
Nanese Weatherspoon

"To God be the glory! For all the things he's done for me."



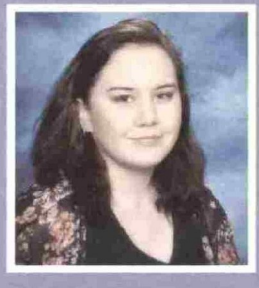
Kevin Weems

"Have fun with everything you do."



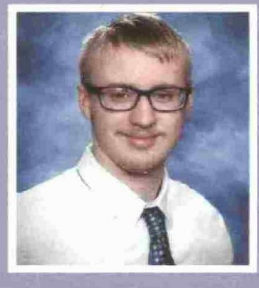
Mandie West

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."



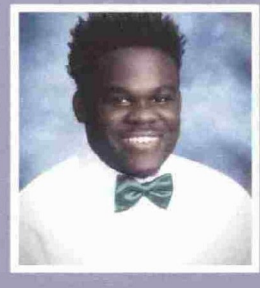
Sarah West

"This was nothing like 'High School Musical'."



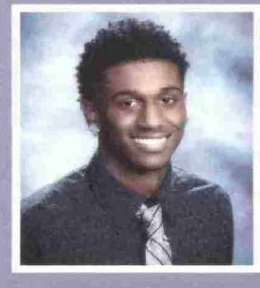
Parker Wheeldon

"What our pasts were doesn't define our current selves."



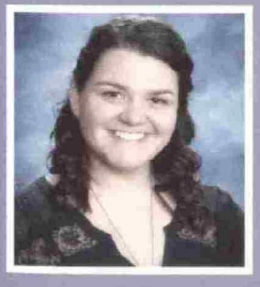
Corrin Wheeler

"Live for today. Plan for tomorrow. Party tonight."



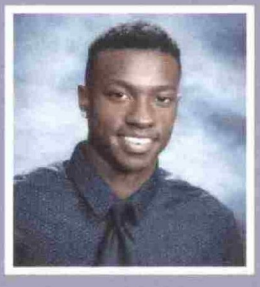
JoRale Wheeler

"Work hard, do your work."



Elizabeth Wilck

"Be the sunshine that makes the flowers grow."

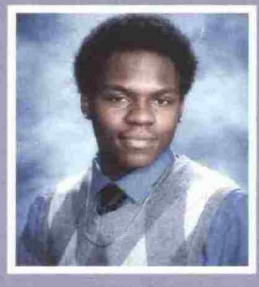


Demond Wilkins Jr.

"If it don't make money, it don't make sense."

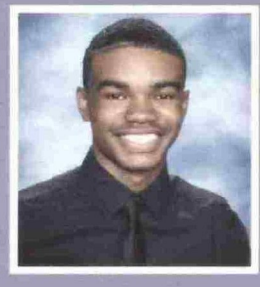
Ahveyon Williams

"Dream a better dream, an unselfish dream."



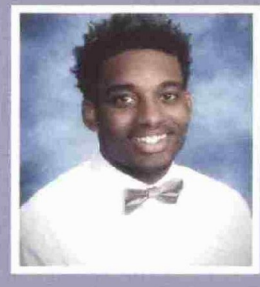
Brandon Williams

"Learn from your struggles and humble yourself. Stay positive and go tackle your goal in life."



Drelen Williams

"Being broke is not an option."

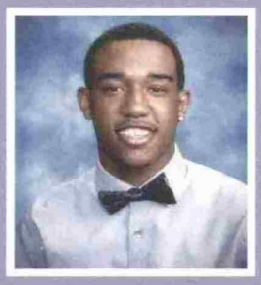


Jalen Williams

"1-800-HOTLINE-BLING"

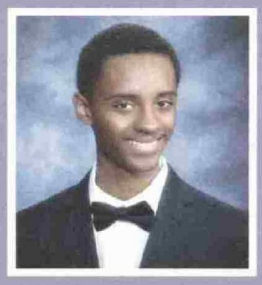
Janae Williams

"Ten years from now, make sure you can say that you chose your life, you didn't settle for it."



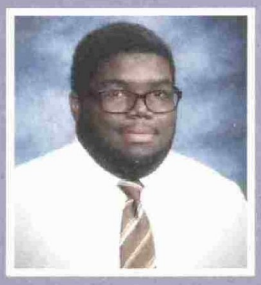
Romell Williams

"Everything isn't what it seems."



William Williams

"I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination."

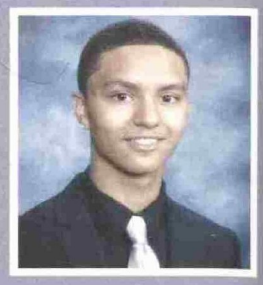


Geremy Williams-Brown

"Never give up, keep aiming for your goal. No matter what!"

Katherine Williamson

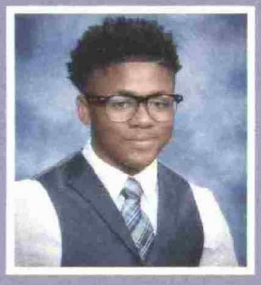
"The world's on my list, but luxury is my state of mind."



Tyreek Wilson

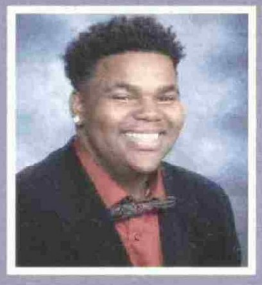
Lakiima Wingard

"The journey doesn't start at the beginning. It begins at the end."



Aaron Woodson

"Stay true to yourself and believe that you can succeed."



Aaron Wright Jr.

"They say money isn't everything, but what could you do without it?"

Monique Yarbro

"I have found that if you love life, life will love you back."

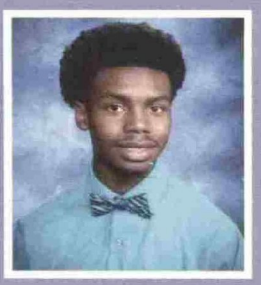
Detra Yarbrough

"Don't let money make you."

Donmeion Yates

"Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people."

Katrina Yon



Jordan Young

"Four years later and I'm still goofy. 'Accomplished nothing'."

Not Pictured

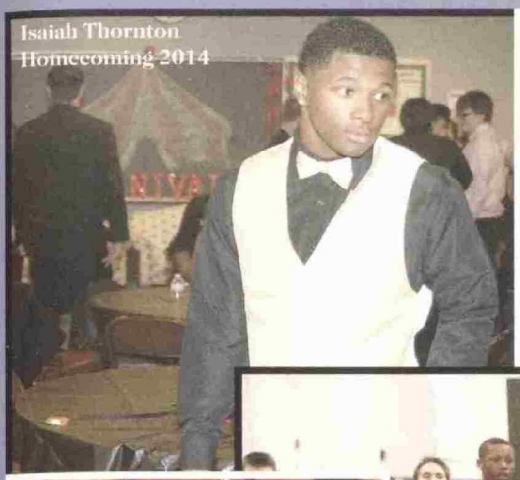
Juan Adame
Myles Alford
Mahmud Ali
Deonta Allen
Madison Allen
Jose Alvarez II
Ashley Ammons
James Augusta
Ahmari Bailey
Jourdin Bandy
Antonio Basemore
Kendall Bell
Brandon Bellamy
Brianna Belle
Promise Blakely
Donyel Borom
Jada Bowden
Daija Bravo
Kamiko Bridges
Makayla Bridges
Maquel Bridges
Joshua Brown
Kiara Brown
De'Vontai Bryant
Tiearra Buckingham
Triston Buenrostro
Thomas Cabello
Jaivionne Calvert
Deanna Cannon
Tranette Cargo
Keith Carr Jr.
Justice Cason
Liane Chambers
Marcel Cherry
James Clark III
Tyree Cole
Myracle Coleman

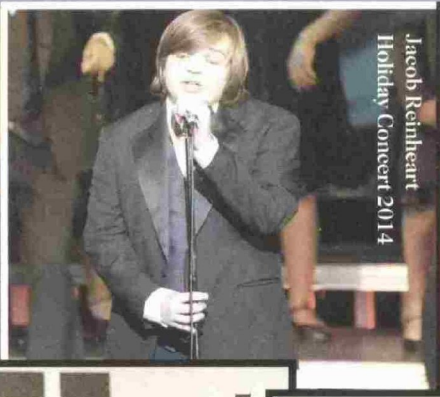
Zantrell Collins
Tela Combs
Kaylon Craft
Corey Crawford Jr.
Noah Criswell
Jordan Crook
Brandon Cummins
James Danaher Jr.
Caitlin Darrell
LeArnetta Davies
Anthony Davis
John-Tearique Davis
Shaconda Davis
Oscar DeLa Cruz
Chad Deline
Dean Denisiuk II
David Diaz
Fatouma Dika
Destina'e DuBois
Alfonso Figueroa
Jalen Forrest
Domonique Franklin
Sarita Gaona
Brenda Garcia
Luis Garcia
David Gatson IV
Anthony Gembara
Jazmynn Gibson
Anthony Gilbert
Destiny Green
Keith Green
Tyler Greer
Maya Griffin
Tajanee' Griffin
Mael Guillermin
Damien Hagan
Zuhria Hamad

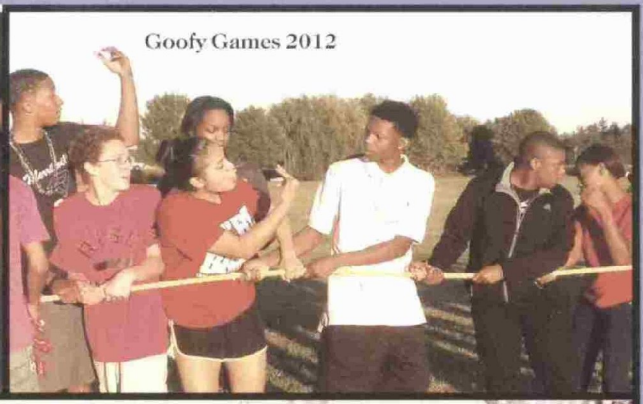
Christian Hamilton
Diamond Hampton
Thomas Hansbury III
Devon Harmon
Diamond Harvey
Chris Hatten
DaVonnicka Head
Calena Henderson
Vondell Henry Jr.
Marissa Hollins
Wendell Hopson Jr.
Rheed Howerton
Melvin Hughes
Donald Hunter
Julian Jernigan
Antonio Johnson
Arrianna Johnson
Da'Miracle Johnson
Jacquel Johnson
Jada Johnson
Le'Montrell Johnson
Tyresa Johnson
Antonyo Jones
Carlton Jones
Dorian Jones
Rico Joseph
Kiara Key
Alonzo Kirk Jr.
Tyeisha Lackey
Qu'Juan Lane
Tra'Mont Lee
Marc Lewandowski
Belen London
Crystal Lopez de Lara
Oralia Lopez
Aaron Lott
Sho'n Mabone

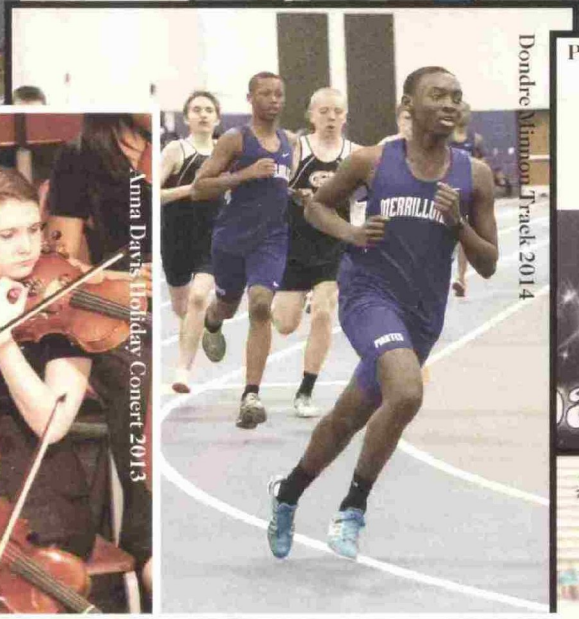
Michael Mahone
Christian Marquez
Nathan Martin-Ellison
Christian Martinez
Patricia Matheny
Le'Anna McCoy
Kristin McGee
Temia Minfield
Keaireana Moorehead
Joaquin Morando IV
Joshua Morando
Kenneth Morris
Jon Morton
Amir Muhammad
Isaac Neely
Chloe Okemura
Deidra Owens
Antonio Paine Jr.
Briana Palm
Michael Partee III
Diamond Patterson
Ryan Patton
Luis Paz
Isaiah Pearson II
Gerardo Perez
Jeremiah Perez
Andre' Peterson Jr.
Breanna Phillips
Tevin Phillips
Nicolas Pirtle
Daniel Pole III
Mario Preciado
Omar Ramirez Jr.
Koreena Ramos
Olivia Reavley
Amarillis Rentas
Mireya Rey

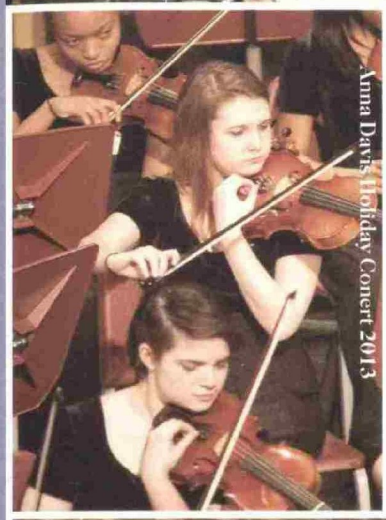
Brian Robertson
Tynithia Robinson
Kirk Roby II
Evelynne Rogers
Gia Sadural
Enrique Saenz Carrillo
Alyssa Sanchez
Corey Sanders
Jasmine Sanders
Jonathan Serrato
Corvon Shelton
Payshence Shields
Avery Silva
Kevin Simmons Jr.
Kendra Skinner
Eiljah Smith
Joella Smith
Garrett Smith Jr
Khari Smith
Jairus Stevens
Shawn Streck
Jarika Sullivan
Eric Swims Jr
Jordan Tate
Jazzmyne Taylor
Darnell Taylor Jr.
Christian Thomas
Matthew Thompson
Isaiah Toodle
Derrick Underwood Jr
James Walters III
Everett Ware III
Ashley Washington
Teniya Williams
Demaria Wright
Kiana Wynne
Marchala' Yarbrough

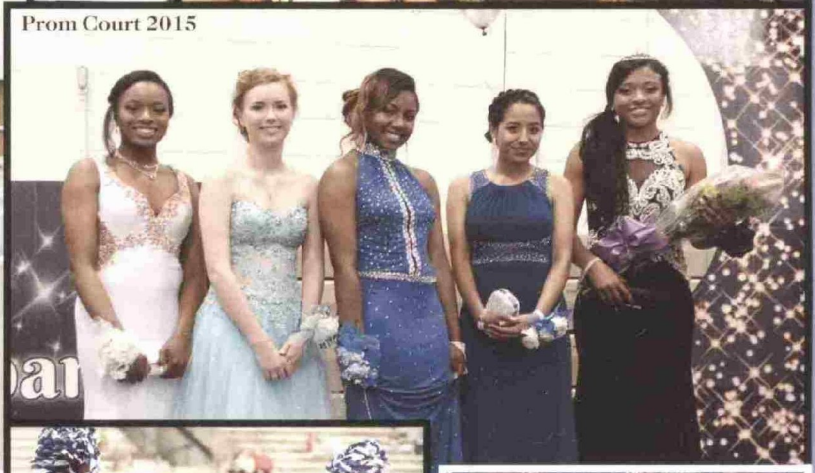

Isaiah Thornton
Homecoming 2014


Jacob Reinheart
Holiday Concert 2014

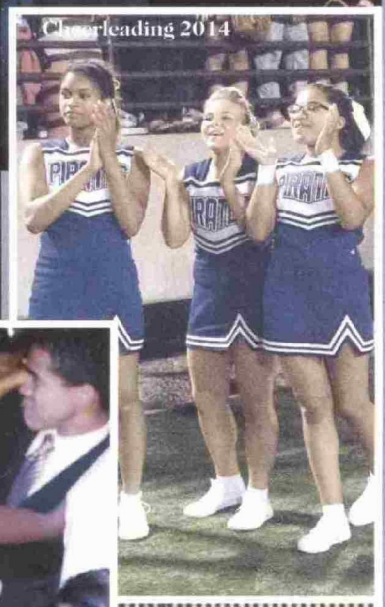

Goofy Games 2012


Dondre Minnon Track 2014

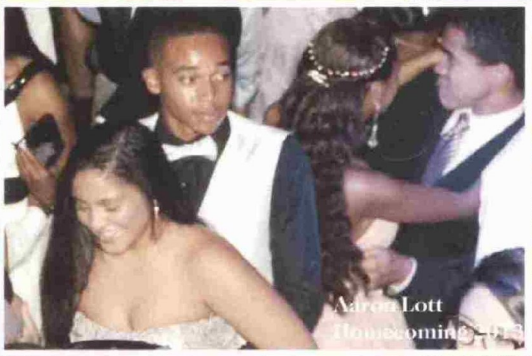

Anna Davis Holiday Concert 2013


Prom Court 2015

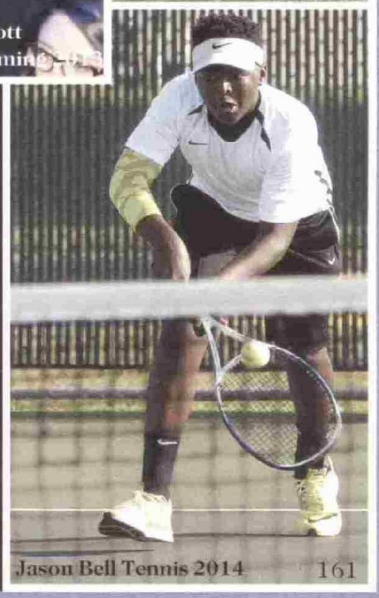
Dyana Brinson Dance 2014

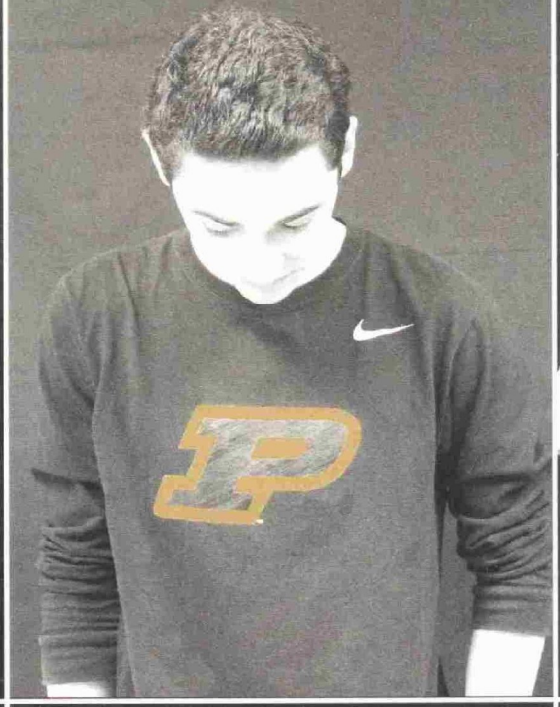

Cheerleading 2014

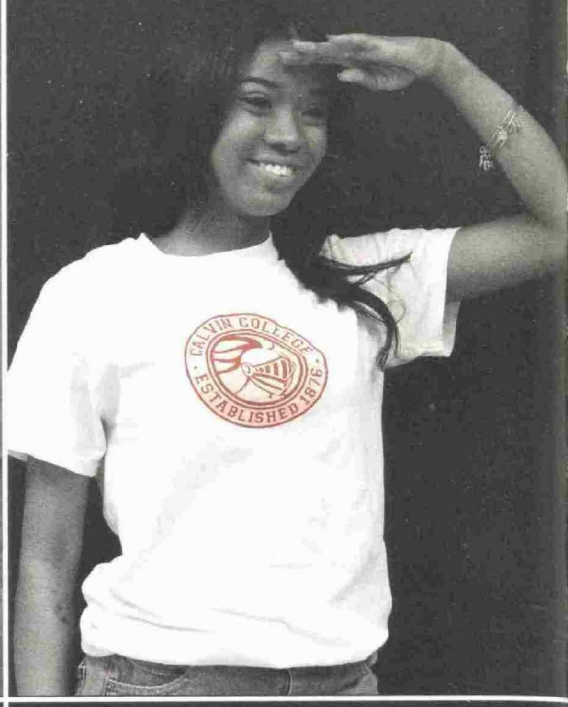
2016 Class Officers

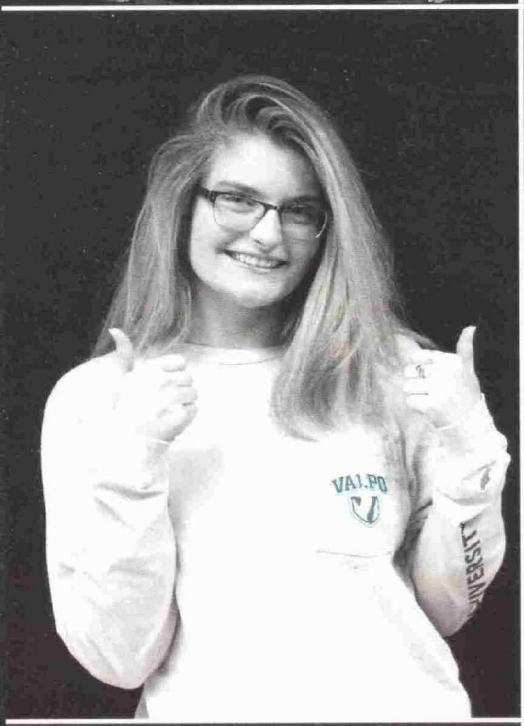

Aaron Lott
Homecoming 2013

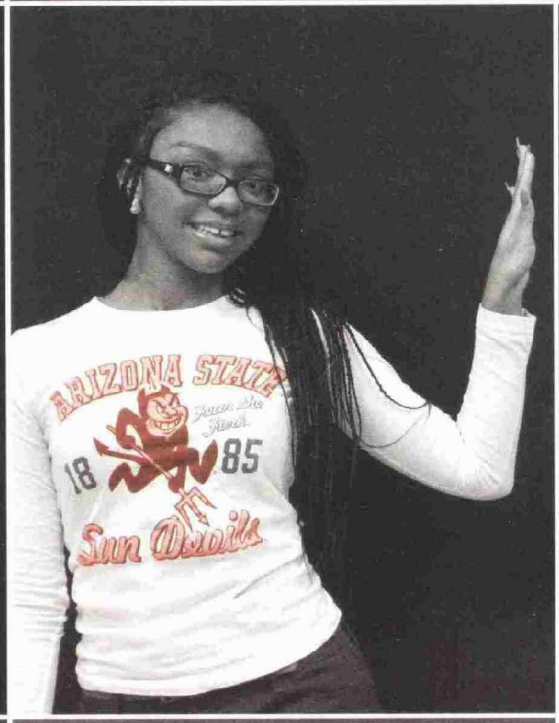
Dodgeball 2016

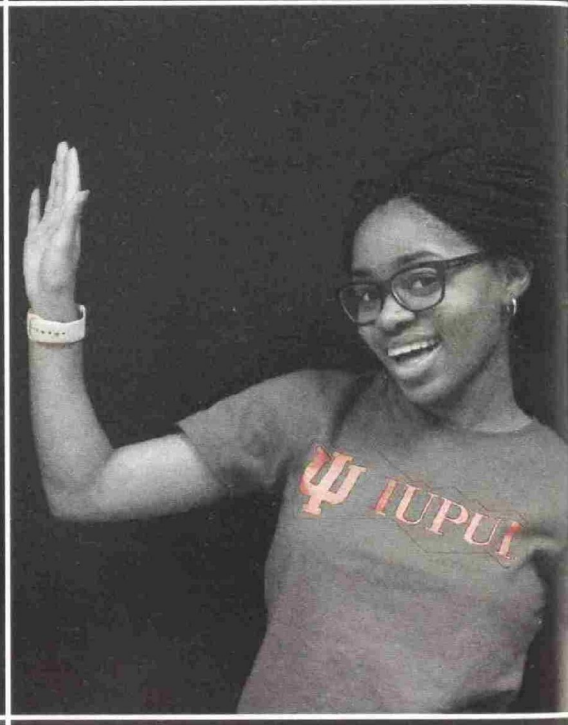

Jason Bell Tennis 2014



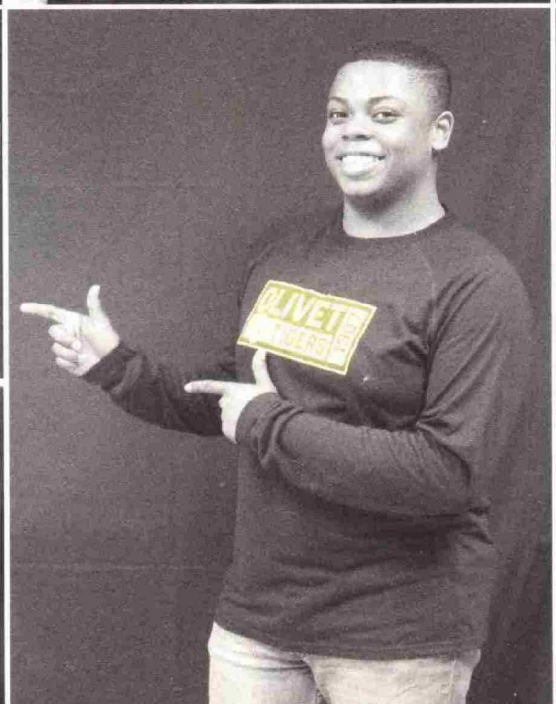

CALVIN COLLEGE
ESTABLISHED 1876

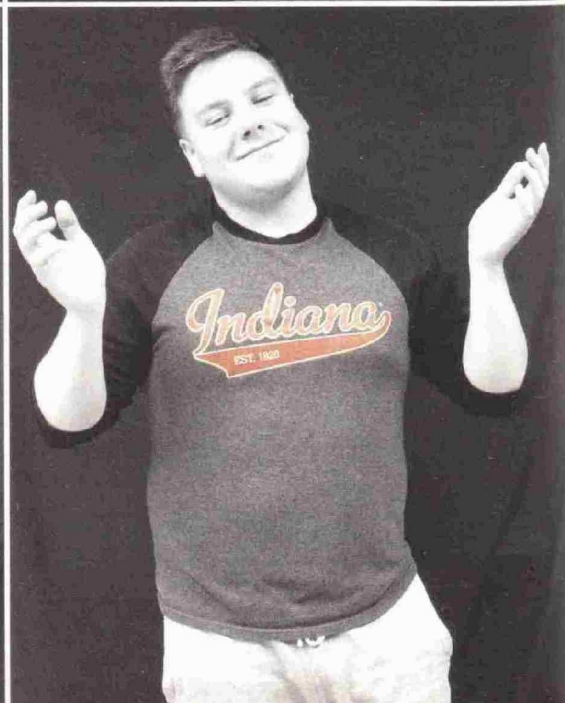

VALPO


ARIZONA STATE
18
85
Sun Devils


IUPUI

Evansville


OLIVET


Indiana

Seniors conquer college plans

Jillian Manis

Q: What do you like most about Manchester University?

A: Small school, good business program.

Q: What motivated you to go there?

A: My brother went there, so I have connections.

Manchester University

Wesley Babilonia

Q: What do you want to major in?
A: Aerospace Engineering.

Q: Do you think college is going to be a struggle?
A: Yes, because high school is already a struggle. I actually have to study.

Purdue West Lafayette

Caitlin Darrell

Q: Who motivated you to go to IUPUI?
A: Myself. I really like the school.

Q: How are you paying for college?
A: My parents, mostly, and scholarships.

IUPUI

Indiana University Bloomington — Brian Baran

Q: Are you nervous about getting a roommate?
A: No. They might be weird, but I might have someone I know.

Q: What did you like most about the college?
A: They have a lot of parties. I've always liked the campus.

Danielle Dewees

Q: How are you paying for college?
A: Half with scholarships and my college fund with my family.
Q: Are you nervous about getting a roommate?
A: No. I'm staying at home.

Valparaiso University

Dakota Shelton

Q: Why this college?
A: Good nursing program, and it's ranked in the top 10.

Q: Do you think college will be a struggle?
A: Yes. The professors will move at a faster pace.

Arizona State

Alexis Delk

Q: What do you want to major in?
A: Pre-Law Political Science.

Q: What do you like most about the college?
A: The environment. I am a legacy there. Also, it's a Christian School.

Calvin College

University of Evansville

Q: Why this college?
A: They have a credit program and my major.

Q: Who motivated you to go there?
A: I found it myself. I don't really don't know anyone out there.

Alanna Hubbard

Jayson Jones

Q: Are you nervous about getting a roommate?
A: No. I'm open to meeting new people. I'm not that shy.

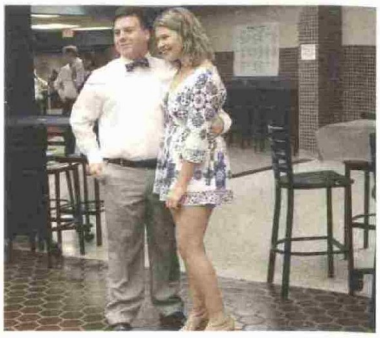
Q: Do you think college is going to be a struggle?
A: For the first year, yes. But the next years, it'll go by smooth.

Olivet College

2016
MERRILLVILLE
HIGH SCHOOL
PIRATES
Buy a Porche'
Kiss a gir
from every ra
Graduate FROM College
Take a Salsa Class
To not get Played
Meet Stephen Curry
to meet my mom
Win Sectionals for baseball
Swim With Sharks
meet Bryson Tiller and have him sing to me
Go to Graceland to see the Elvis shrine and his house
Buy a Lambo!
To try every food item at a buffet
Fill a Mayo Jar with Vanilla Pudding and eat in public
Produce for J. Cole and Wiz
Meet Taylor Swift

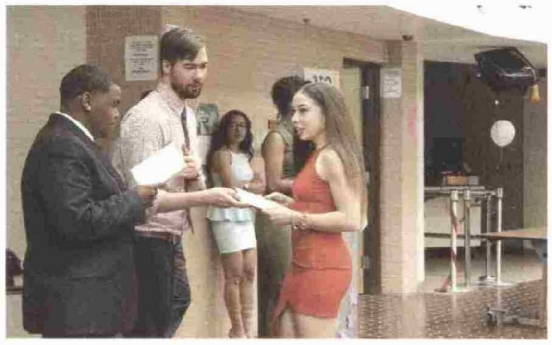
to go to Spain
throw a huge party at my house
Swim with dolphins
Own a Mansion
Go to the military
Dunk on Rico
Become a Billionaire
go ver seas
Be happy
Go skydiving
GO to China
Succeed in life
Marry Leti
Write my own Biography
to go around the world
Go to Vegas
Get a Pet duck!
Spend the day with Jacquees
Get a Scholarship for Ball State
Perform at the Grammys
WORK for ESPN
16

John Unmisig gets help from Antonio Cornelius Jr. tying his tie. "It's so insane knowing we're almost to the end," Unmisig said. "I'm seriously going to miss everyone a lot." Unmisig said the end of senior year is bittersweet.



With his friend DeLaney Richards, Brian Baran poses for a picture. "It was a lot of fun getting together with everyone before we graduate," Baran said. "I thought it was nice how they presented the awards." After breakfast, Baran met his friends and headed to West Beach.

With her friends Philip Barnes and Zachary Feign, Sarita Gaona plays Cards Against Humanity . After the breakfast and drive-around, she went to the beach with her friends. "It was nice seeing everyone dressed up, but the food wasn't worth the $8," Gaona said.



Amber Drake receives the Senior Choice Award for Best Dressed. "The Senior Breakfast was such an amazing experience. You get to bond with your class," Drake said. She said the video showed the progress the seniors have made in their four years of high school.

With friends Selena Drake, Sharod Holmes Jr. and Drelen Williams, Adrian Brooks talks about his plans after high school. "Senior breakfast was definitely a memory," Brooks said. "It felt good to dress up and see everyone look so nice."

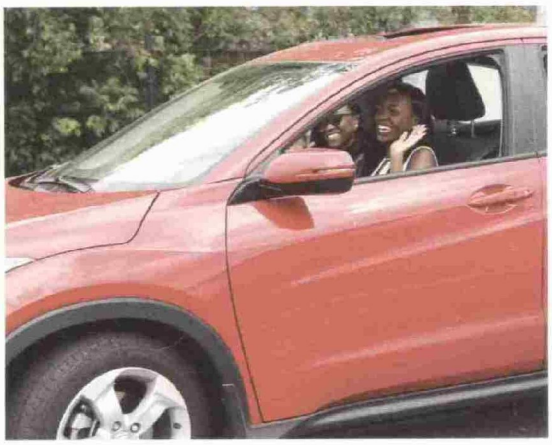
Left: As he eats his breakfast, Adam Serros eyes Matthew Sims' phone. Serros said he was glad that graduation was near. "I love dressing up, and it was nice seeing everyone in our class together all at once," Serros said. Right: Posing on the floor, a group gets ready to take a picture. "Even though I was dying for it to end," Tomas Rodrigues said, "all the memories and fun times I had with the Class of 2016 are things I definitely won't forget." Rodrigues said that going to the Senior Breakfast really set the tone for Graduation.

Breakfast

Dalin Tape, Anthony Lee and Nicholas Owens drive in a Ram truck. After the drive-around, Tape said he went to his friend Louis' house to have a chill day with the guys and play 2K. "I thought that everyone was driving too slowly, but it was cool," Tape said. I just wish they would've let us go faster and have more fun."

Driving a Chrysler 300, Aaron Wright Jr. and Deanetra Dixon participate in the Drive-Around. "We went to the beach after," Wright said. He said that the Drive-Around was all right and pretty cool.

Breon Smith, along with Romell Williams and Charles Jacobs, make their way around the school. "The best part of the Drive-Around was being with all the seniors and hanging out with them," Smith said. After the Drive-Around, they went to West Beach in Portage.

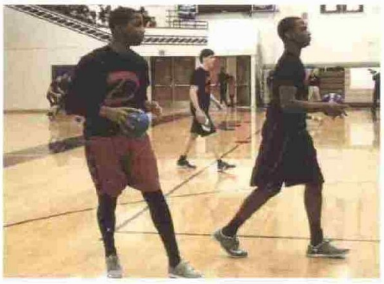


During the Drive-Around, Dyana Brinson and Jada Duff drive in a Honda HR-V. "After the Drive-Around, we went out to eat," Brinson said. She said that it was nice to see all the cars and seniors driving around.

Listening to his own music, Alphonso Blackwell drives around in a Nissan Altima. Blackwell said he loves driving, so the Drive-Around was great. "After, I went to my best friend Paris' house to have a water balloon fight," Blackwell said. "Of course, I won."

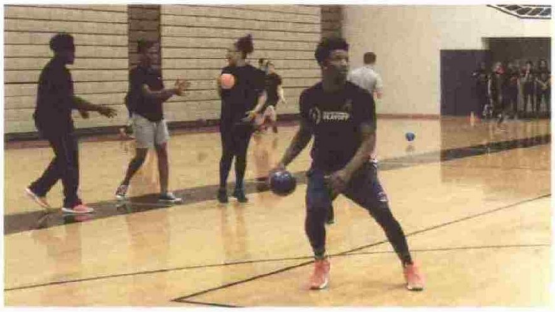
Drive - Around

DODGEBALL



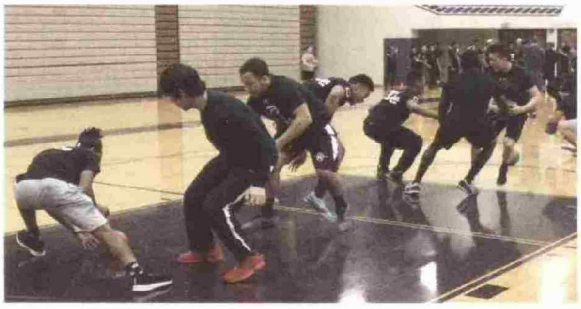
Focused on the game, Senior Tyler Tanzymore tries to find someone to hit. With no doubt in his mind, Tanzymore said his team, the Five D's of Dodgeball, weren't nervous at all. Tanzymore said he was excited to throw balls at many different faces. "I felt like we had a pretty good chance to win, but of course, we got cheated by the Dough Boys," he said.

Arm raised, ready to strike his opponent, Senior Dondre Minnion throws the ball. "We really didn't have any strategy," Minnion said. The Dough Boys won the right to play the teachers during halftime of the Student-Faculty Basketball game by beating the other senior teams in competition two weeks before. He said the Dough Boys did all right, despite being outnumbered by the teachers six to five.

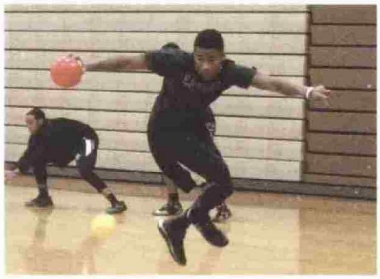


Picking out a target, Senior Matthew Thompson gets ready for a throwdown. While the Friends with Attitude (FWA) didn't prepare for the tournament, Thompson said that it was a great time until they faced the Dough Boys. "I was only intimidated by the Dough Boys because they kept trying to come for me only," Thompson said. "But it ain't too much, though. I got them if they want a rematch."

Ready to get his opponent out of the game, Senior Jelani Gibson aims the ball at Senior Jason Bell. Gibson said he tried to stay in the zone during every game, but he still shared many laughs with his team, The Revenge of the Dreamers. "For the first two games, I was kind of nervous," Gibson said. "But toward the last game, the crowd hyped my head up and started feeling myself."



Grabbing a ball, Senior Devon Harmon starts the game. "We were all over the place, and I wish we worked on our catching more," Harmon said. "It was still fun, though." Dem Boys didn't advance to the second round, but Harmon said he still had a great time.

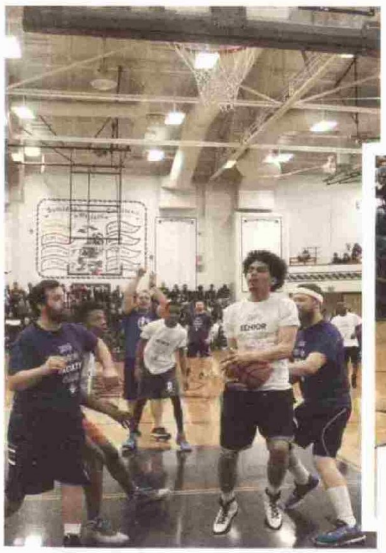


In midair, Senior Myles Taylor jumps over a ball. Taylor made his team The Untouchables because he said those are his boys, and he couldn't have had a better time with anyone else. "I had no worry during the whole tourney because I'm used to being under pressure, but I really want a rematch with O'Connell and Buxton's team," Taylor said.

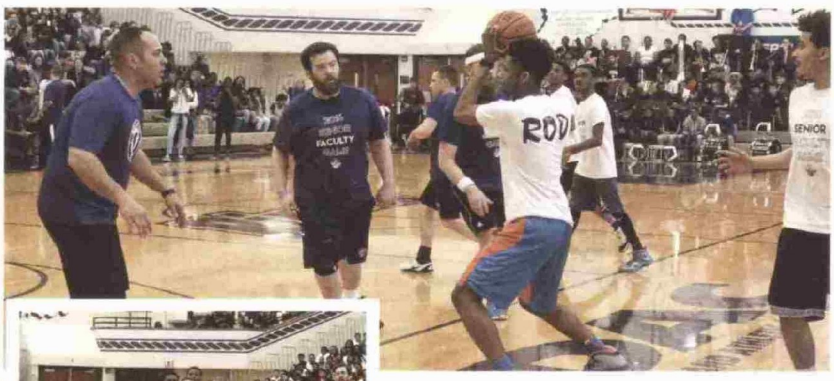
Aiming at the opposing team, Senior Emily Glover gets ready to throw. "Our only goal was just to have fun out there," Glover said. During the first game, Glover said she was nervous, but she saw the other team couldn't throw and gained confidence.

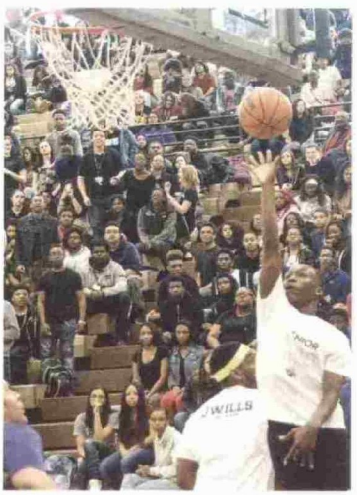
BASKETBALL

As he runs down the court, Senior Jaivionne Calvert scans the floor for his teammates. "I wasn't nervous because I see these students every day," Calvert said. "It just felt like any other basketball game." The faculty beat the seniors 42-34.



With the ball over his head, Senior Sharod Holmes Jr. tries to get an easy assist. "I wasn't nervous about any teachers, but Mr. Parker was going crazy," Holmes said. He said the team was hoping for the best, but "expecting the worst" from the teachers.



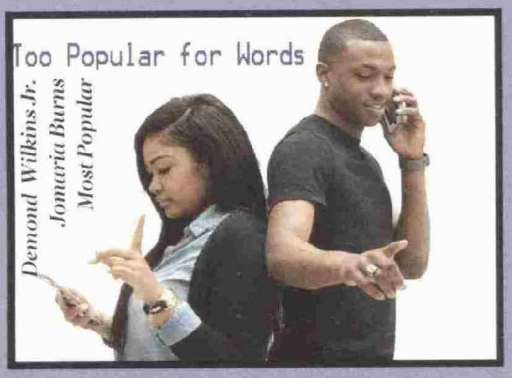


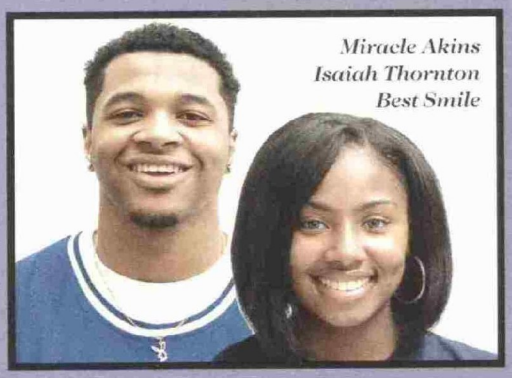
Gripping the ball, Senior Matthew Tobias grabs the rebound. "I wasn't nervous at all," Tobias Said. He said he would have done better if he had more playing time on the court.

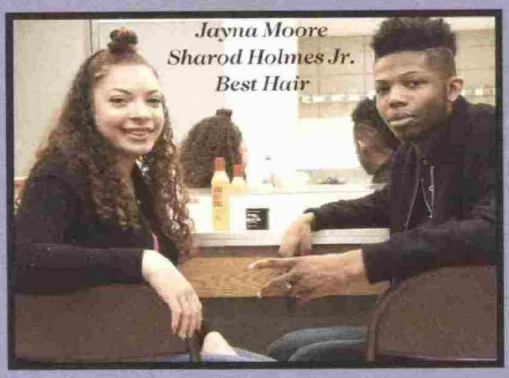
With the ball in his hand, Senior Drelen Williams drives to the basket. "I wasn't worried about the teachers," Williams said. He said he was happy to play in front of everyone. Players qualified by attending six or more senior meetings.

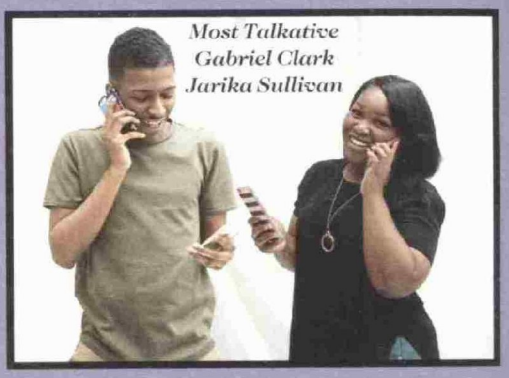
Focused on the basket, Senior Christian Thomas shoots for a layup. "I was just having fun," Thomas said. The senior team practiced once a week before the annual competition against the teachers the day before Spring Break began.

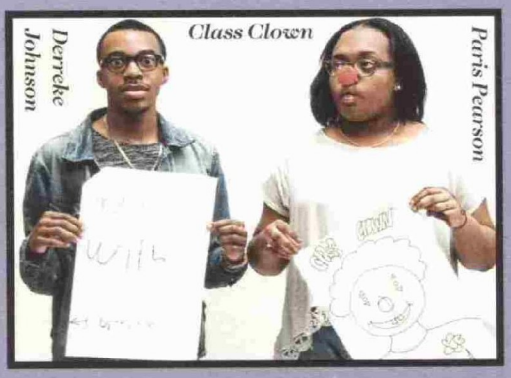
SENIOR CHOICE AWARDS

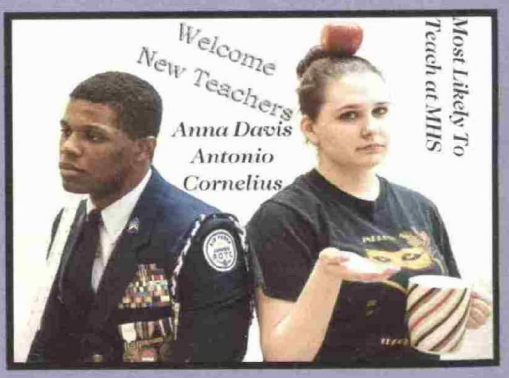


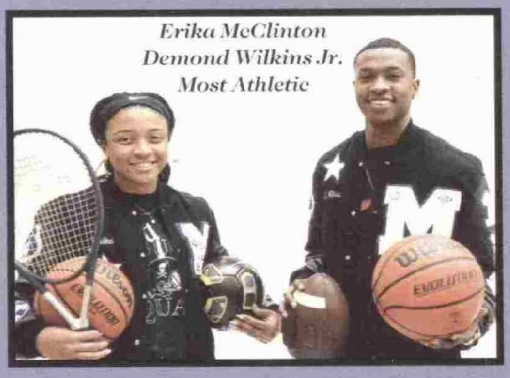


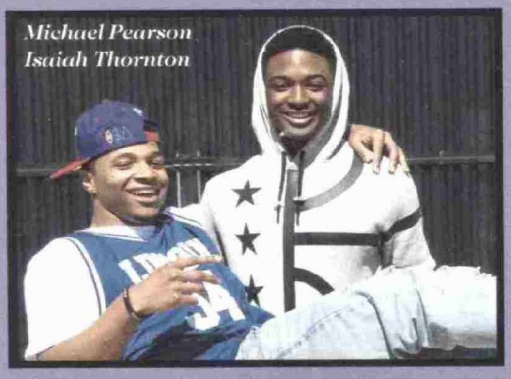






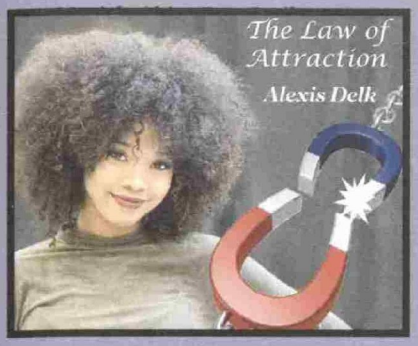


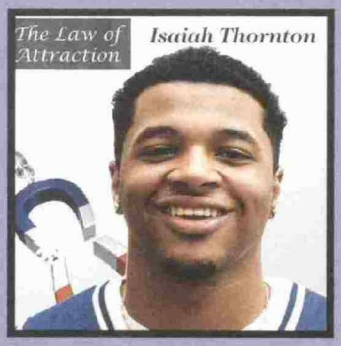


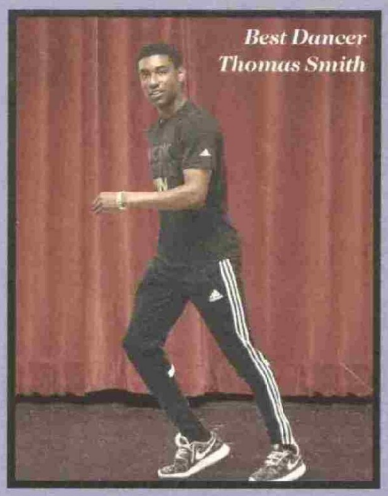


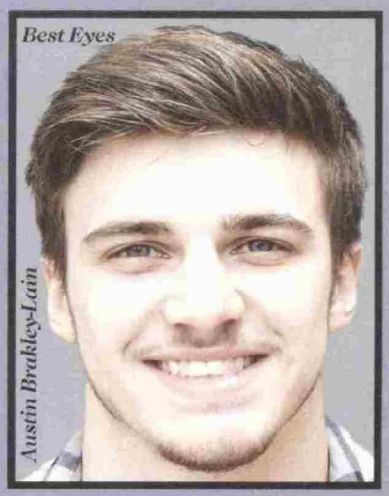
Most Likely to Stay Friends

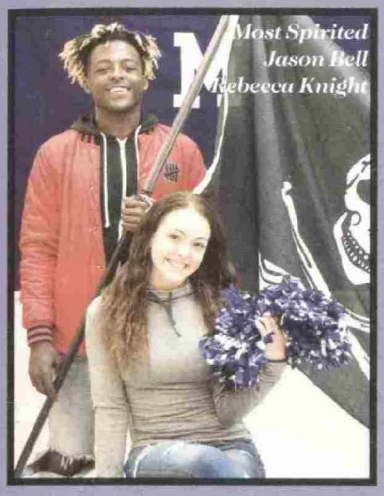
Most Attractive

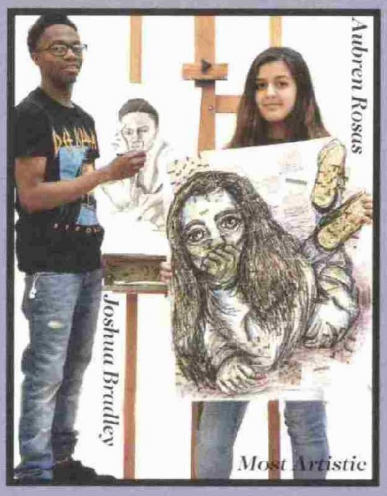


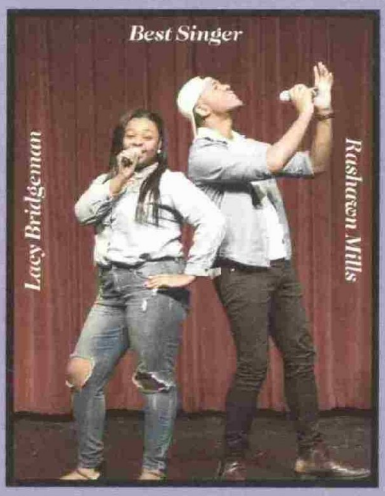


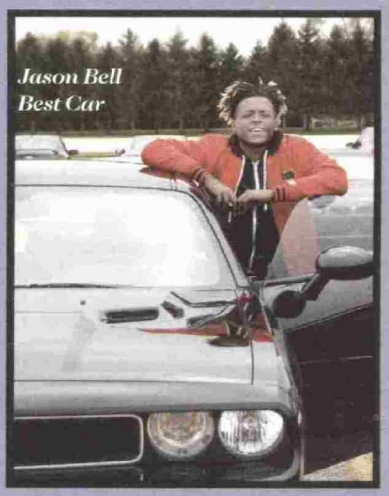


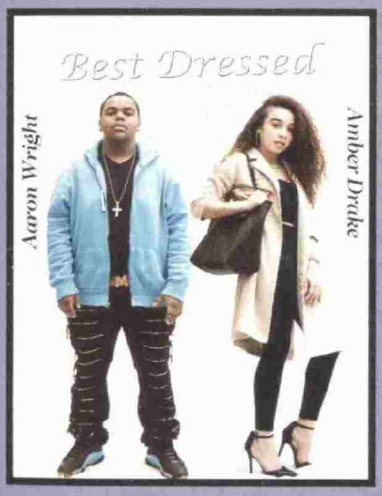


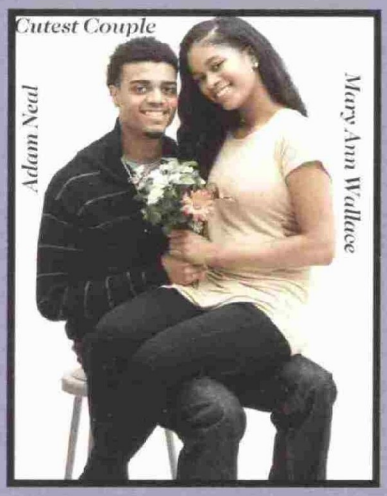


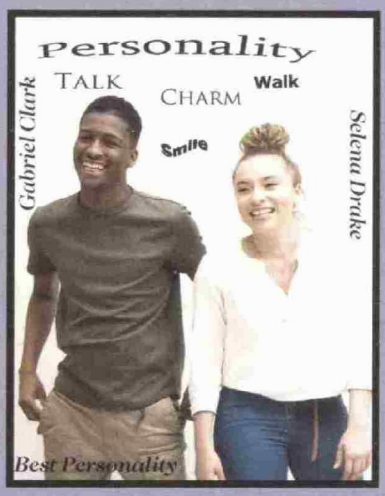


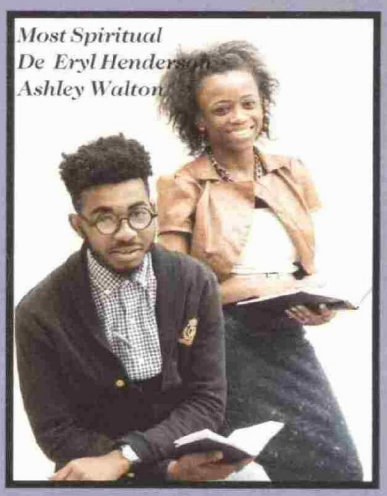


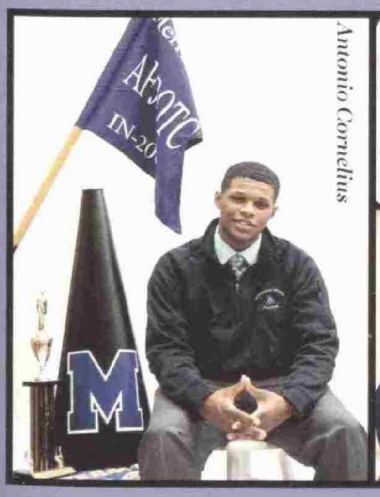


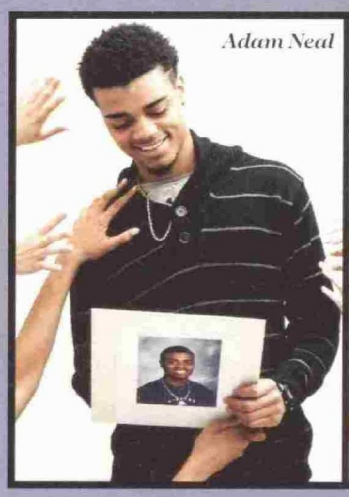


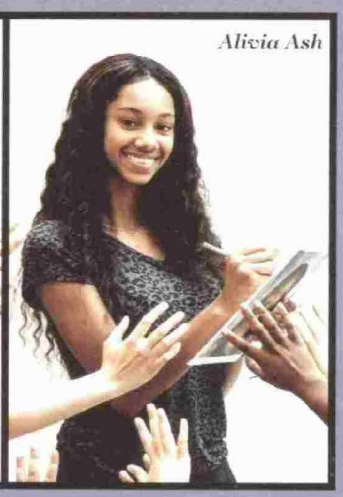


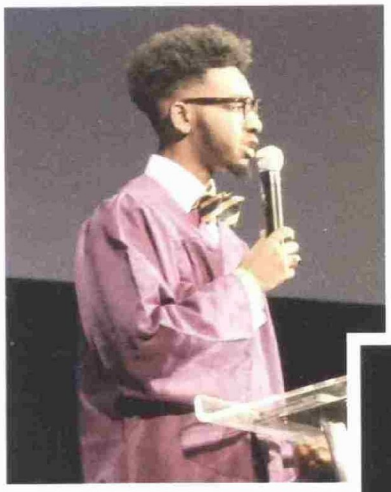








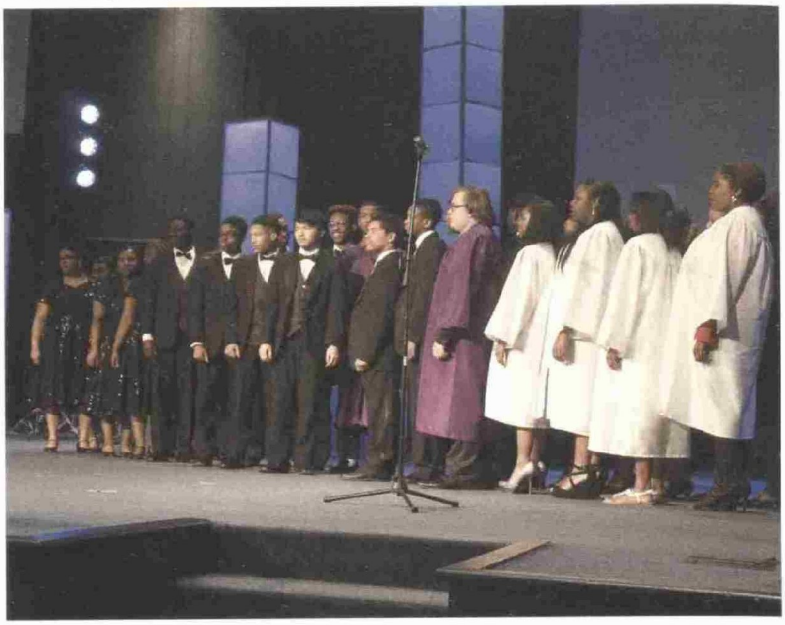


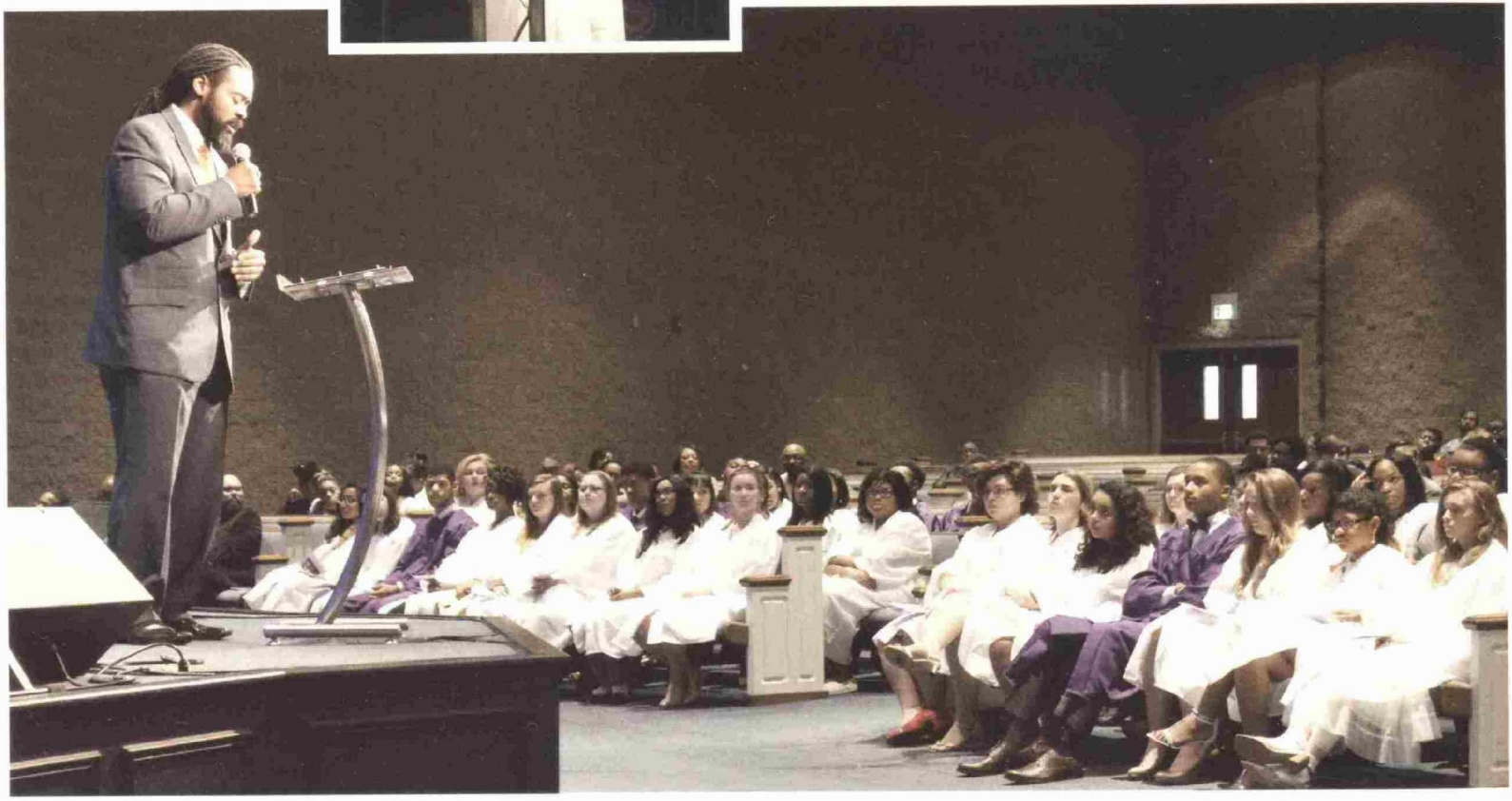


With his eyes on the crowd, De Eryl Henderson looks at the reaction of the students. Henderson spoke about the breakdown of their senior year and how they came a long way with the help of God. "God guided us these four years and can keep us going for the rest of the years to come," Henderson said. "We all need to strive to be the best for him and ourselves."

Looking at her fellow students, Ashley Walton speaks about purpose. Walton said she wanted to show the seniors how to find the purpose within themselves. "Everyone needs to know that they can do whatever they want, because it's all up to them," Walton said.

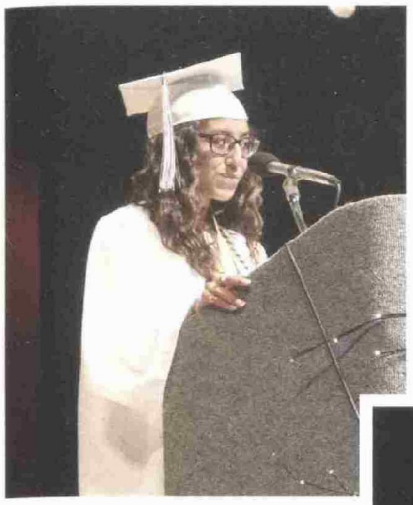
The Choral Teens perform at Baccalaureate. "Even though I'm only a junior, the experience was great," Junior Ronald Brewer said. "I just hope whoever speaks for us next year will be as good as Mr. Israel."





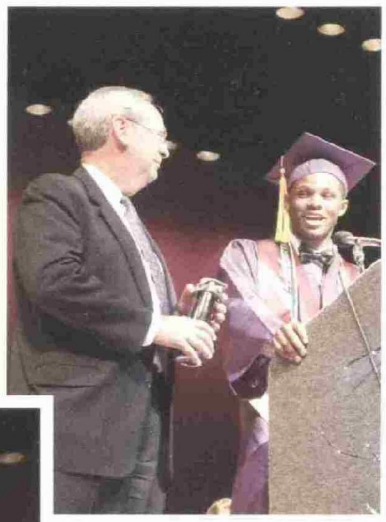
As he stands at the podium, English teacher Mr. Elisha Israel checks his speech. Mr. Israel addressed the responsibilities of all generations and the problems of human suffering. "I hope everyone left with the understanding that the destiny of all of us, and where we go, all depends on where the young people take us and the decisions they make," Mr. Israel said. "No one of this young generation should feel limited on what they can do."

Baccalaureate

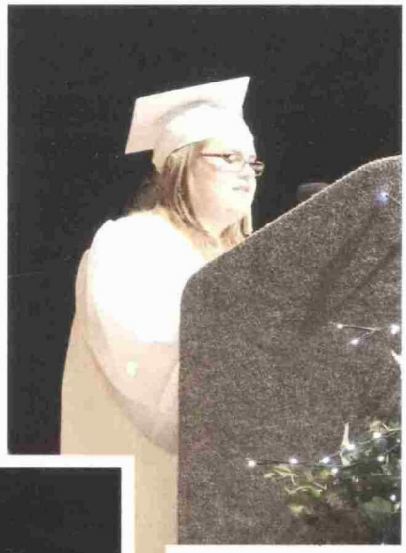


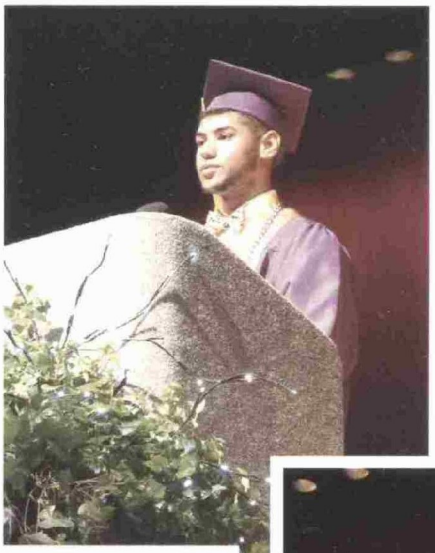
Looking at her her fellow classmates, President Viridiana Carrillo tries to keep her tears in check. "Our doubts have motivated us and driven us to success, believe it or not. Our doubters have taught us that there are going to be many people in the world who believe we cannot achieve greatness, and it is up to us to prove them wrong."

Presenting the class gift to President Mr. Mark Lucas of the School Board of Trustees, Treasurer Antonio Cornelius Jr. announces that the class gift will be a new top-of-the-line water fountain."This will cut down on the line that tends to form, allowing students to get to class quicker, giving those of us who procrastinate a few moments to finish homework we forgot to do the night before."

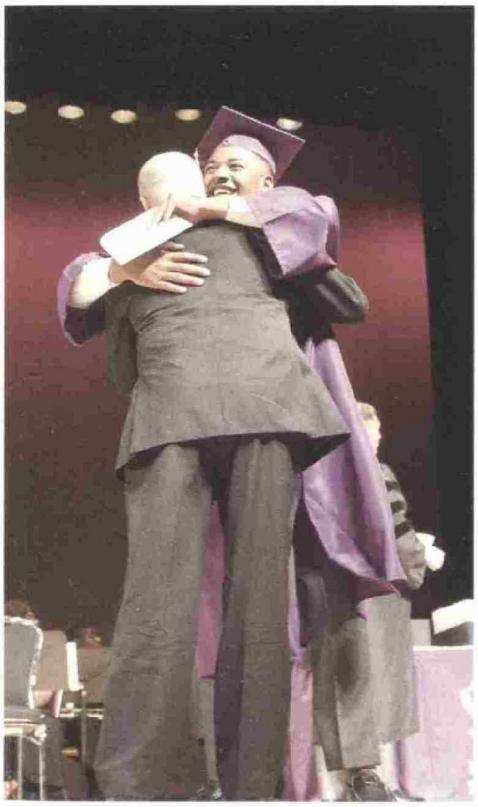


In her speech, Valedictorian Jillian Manis said, "Most of us can probably agree that the last four years have gone by extremely fast. It feels like just yesterday we were walking into the doors of the Freshman Center for the first time filled with excitement to start our high school careers. Little did we know, that feeling would soon fade."

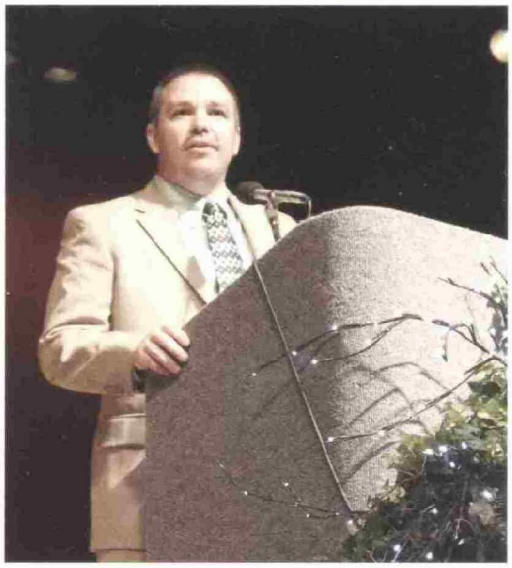




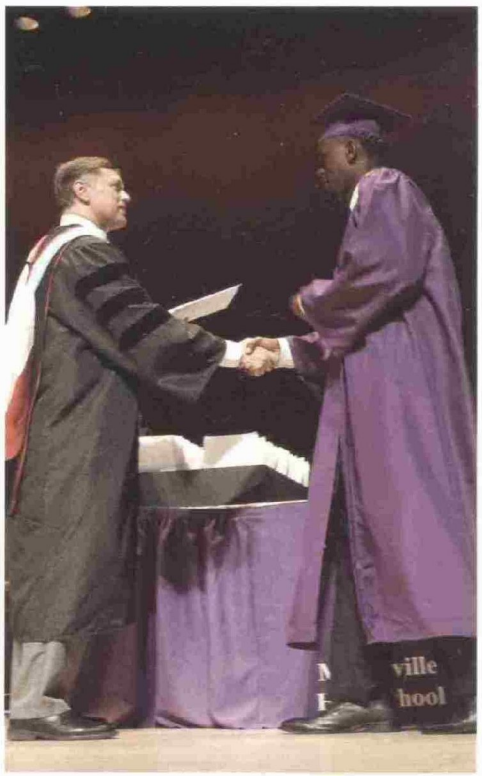
Standing at the podium, Salutatorian David Hinton II gives his speech. "For the students, high school is fun, sad, jovial, stressful, important or not so important," Hinton said. "Whichever it is, high school is just a small blip on our timeline of life."



Smiling with excitement, James Walters III hugs Principal Mr. Michael Kruts.



The featured speaker of the Class of 2016, English teacher Mr. Jason Sonnenberg, looks out at the students. "Give people the time and attention they deserve," Mr. Sonnenberg said. "Take pride in your profession, when you figure it all out. Enjoy what you're doing, and get really good at it. It makes living happy a lot easier to do."

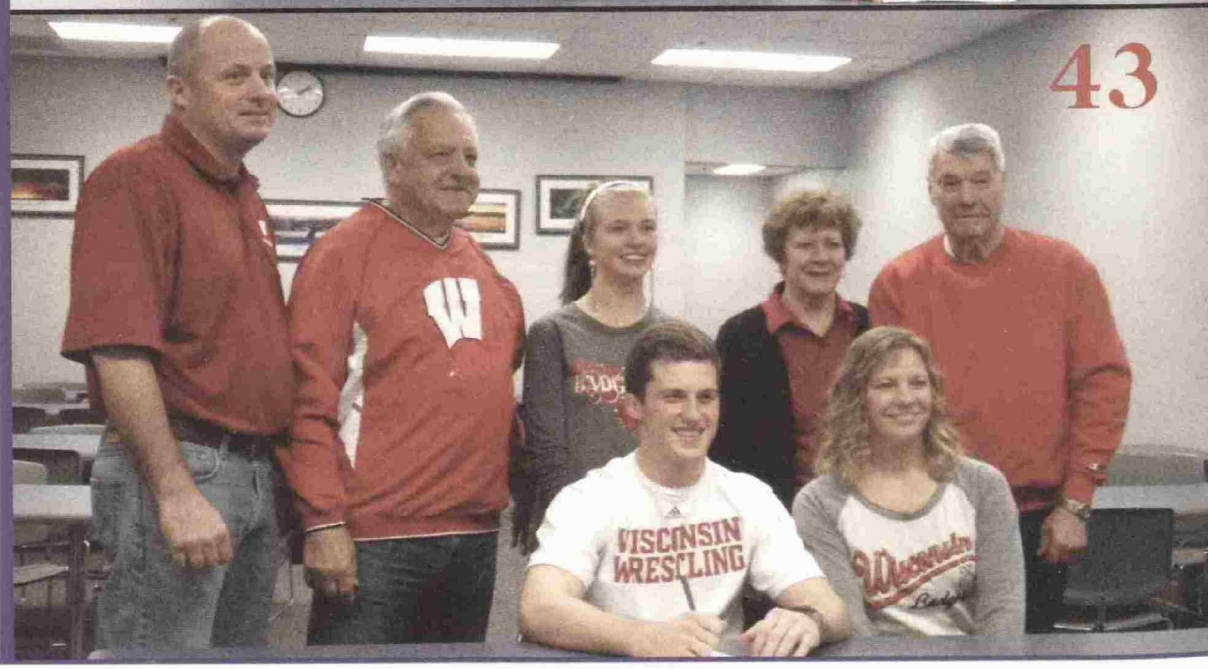


As Jairus Stevens goes to grab his diploma cover, he shakes hands with Superintendent Dr. Jeffery Studebaker, thanking him.

Commencement

Sports

Pirates in Review



Four-year track runner Alivia Ash will call the University of Louisville in Kentucky home for the next four years. With her father and coaches nearby, Ash commits to compete in college. Ash received a 95 percent scholarship covering everything except food to attend Louisville for four years. Ash plans to graduate college with a bachelor's degree in nursing.

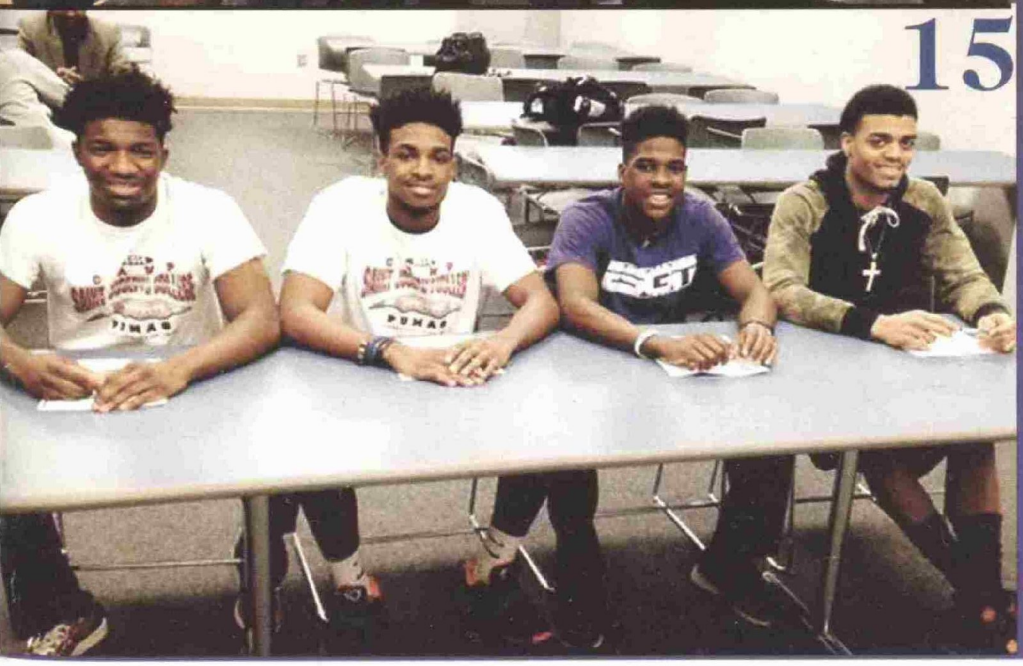
With Coach Amy Govert by her side, four-year basketball player, Ashiala Jackson signs to Tuskegee University in Alabama. Jackson played center in high school, but plans to play small forward in college. Jackson received a full scholarship for her first year at Tuskegee, where she will study chemistry and earn a bachelor's degree. She plans to attend school for dentistry.

One of Merrillville's first two-time Wrestling State Champions and Mr. Football, Shawn Streck signs to Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. Coach David Maldonado, his brother John, his mother and girlfriend were on hand to support him. Streck has committed to wrestle and play football for Purdue on a full scholarship for four years. Streck plans to major in biology.

Surrounded by his family, Jacob Covaciu commits to wrestle at the University of Wisconsin. Covaciu received a 95 percent scholarship and looks to wrestle in the 165 weight class while studying kinesiology. Covaciu is the seventh Merrillville athlete to be awarded with the Ward E. Brown Mental Attitude Award and is one of Merrillville's first two-time Wrestling State Champions.

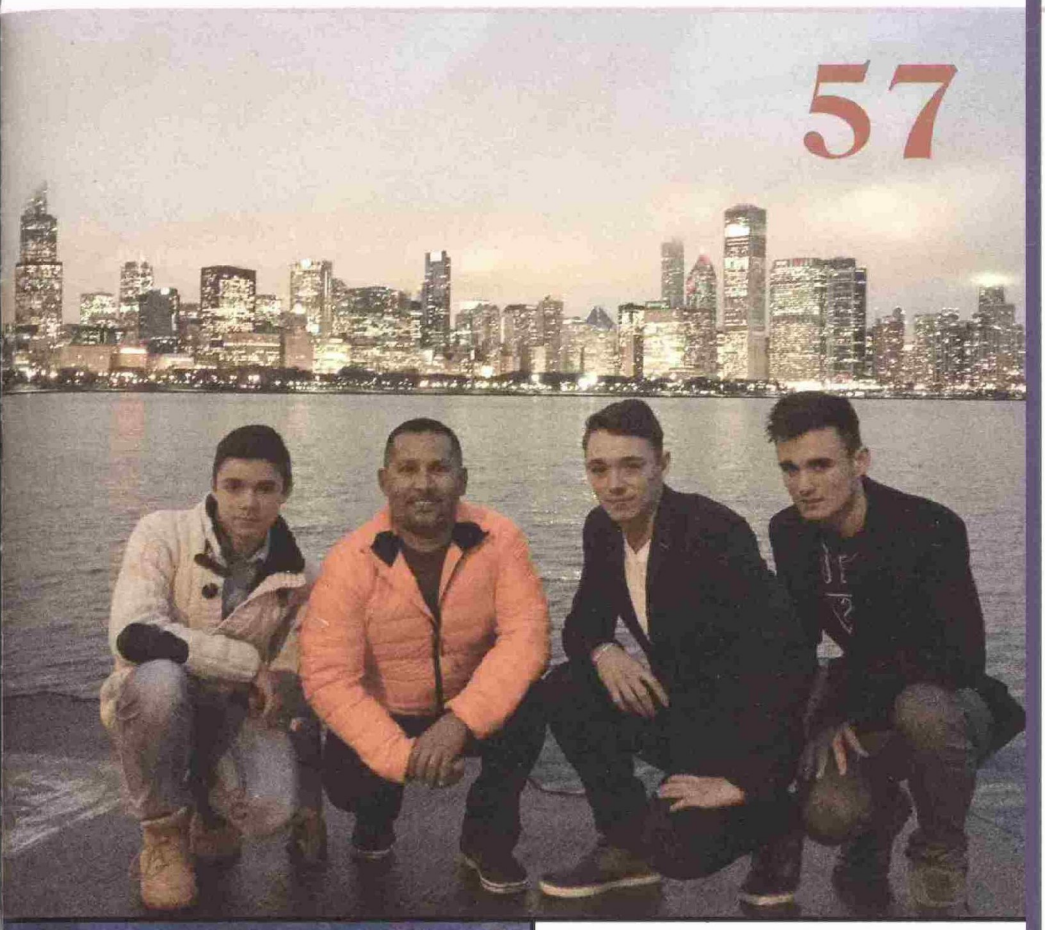
Wanting to stay close to her family, Ashley Ojo signed to Indiana University South Bend. Ojo received a half scholarship to play volleyball at IUSB. Ojo will be studying biology.

During halftime at a boys' basketball game, Merrillville honors the Neal family by retiring Michael Neal's high school football jersey ten years after he graduated. Neal is a 2005 graduate who plays for the Green Bay Packers as a linebacker. In high school, Neal was the Duneland Athletic Conference Defensive Most Valuable Player and was a member of the Indiana All-Star team.



Matthew Thompson, Anthony Tucker Jr. and Thomas Jones sign to Saint Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Indiana. Thompson, Tucker and Jones will play football for St. Joseph's. Thompson plans to be an outside linebacker, Tucker will play as a quarterback and Jones will be a wide receiver. Thompson and Tucker will major in computer science and Jones will major in English. Adam Neal signs to the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He received a scholarship to play football as an outside linebacker. Neal will major in sports management.

Pirates in Review



A member of the Boys and Girls Club of Merrillville, Sharod Holmes was named the Youth of the Year for the state of Indiana. Holmes has been a member of the club for eight years. The application process included writing three essays and an interview process. Holmes was named Youth of the Year for Northwest Indiana before being named the Youth of the Year for the state.

In December of 2014, Junior Aaliyah Stewart founded her own non-profit organization, the ASW (Anthony Samuel White) Foundation. She started the foundation because her two brothers died due to gun violence. Her main focus is to educate young people on nonviolence. "I am them means I am my youth, letting them know no matter what you may go through or where you come from, you have potential," Stewart said.

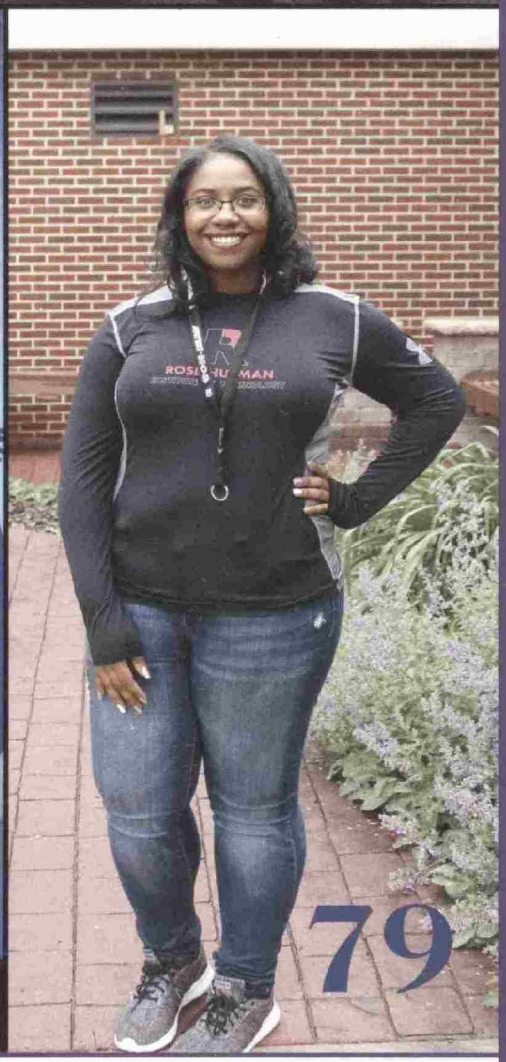
In the fall of 2016, Ashley Mendes will attend Valparaiso University to study civil engineering with a minor in humanitarian engineering. "There were a lot of things that drew me to Valpo, but I really liked that they highly encouraged community service and volunteer work," Mendes said. Mendes received an $80,000 scholarship, which will spread out over her four years at the college. "They have a program there called Engineers Without Borders," Mendes said. "I would like to travel with them one day and help out other parts of the world."

As the class salutatorian, David Hinton II will be attending the University of Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to major in engineering with a specialty in biology. "I want to benefit the world by developing technologies that help the human body," Hinton said. "Maybe even cure the common cold or cancer." Hinton received a full tuition Diversity Scholarship based on his application, SAT and ACT scores and GPA. "I'm very excited for the food there," Hinton said.

As the only foreign exchange student this year, Mael Guillermin traveled from his home country of France to study in America for his senior year. "I decided to do the exchange program because I wanted to discover a new culture, improve my English and be fluent in this language," Guillermin said. "Moreover, I wanted to go to the US because it was my dream." He said when he returns to France he'll be going to law school at a university.

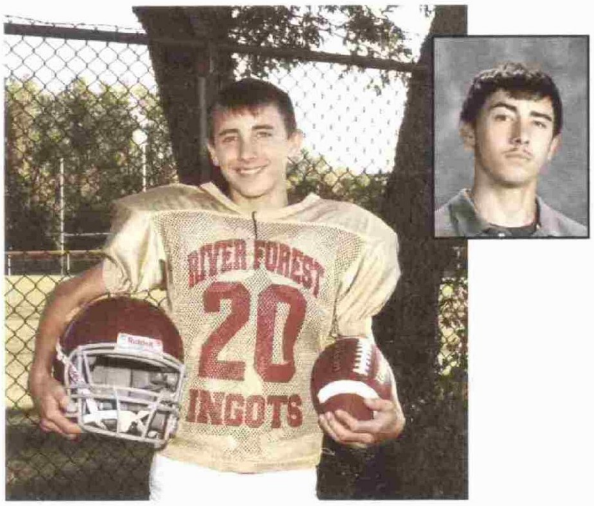
After traveling to his audition, Jacob Reinhart was accepted on the spot to Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College near Terre Haute, Indiana. Reinhart accumulated about $20,000 in endowments from the college. "I've already learned the basics here," Reinhart said. "I'm excited to grow as a performer and gain new skills." Reinhart will be majoring in vocal performance and music. He will also be a part of one of the first classes at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods to be coeducational.

One of the top four academic scholarship recipients, Casey Harvey will be attending Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology to double major in computer and mechanical engineering. "I want to have my own business that incorporates both types of engineering to make the world more efficient and technologically advanced," Harvey said. Her commitment scholarship amounted to $172,000, which covers tuition.

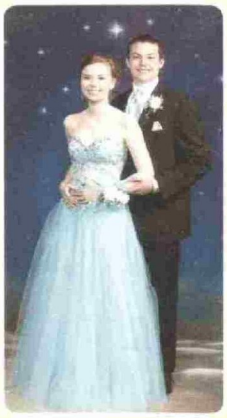


In Loving Memory of
Seth Gilman Ivanov

Born July 24, 1997
At Rest April 19, 2016

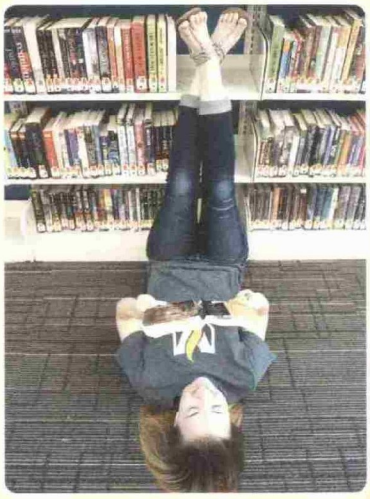


No farewell words were spoken,
No time to say goodbye.
You were gone before we knew it
And only God knows why.
Love and missing you always,
Your Family



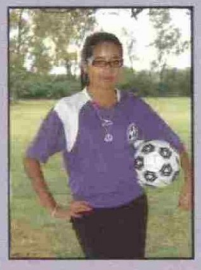
Ashley Nicole Mendez

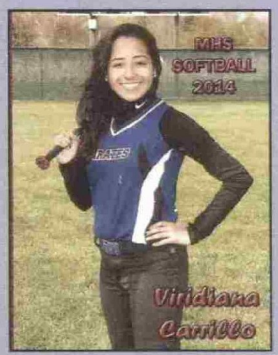
Ashley,
I know we don't say it often enough but we are so very proud of all you have accomplished! You have grown into a beautiful young lady. Congrats and good luck in the future!
Love,
Mom, Dad and Gramps

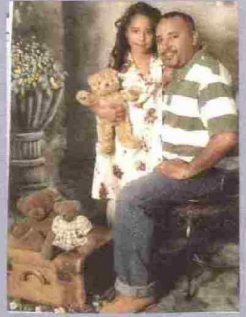


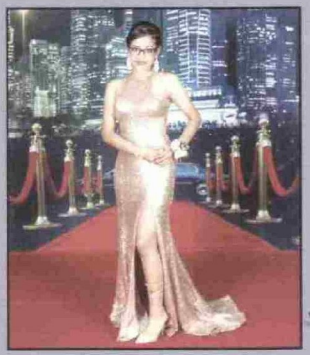
Viridiana Carrillo

Congratulations Prieta Linda,
you graduated from high school! We are very proud of you and your accomplishments. Always do your best and strive for continuous improvement. We will always be here for you and we wish you success.
Love always,
Dad, Mom, Ruby,
Andres and Yaretzi

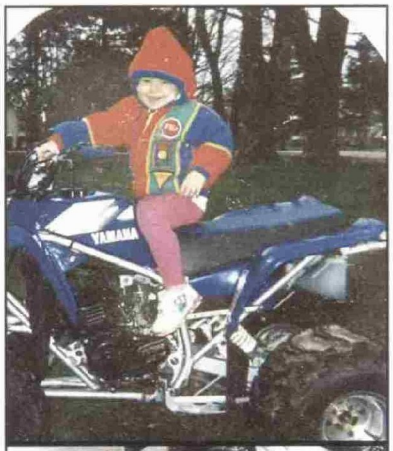


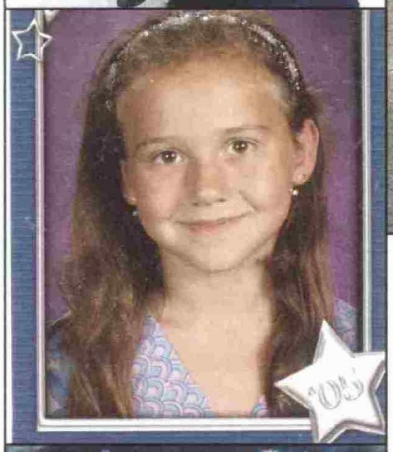




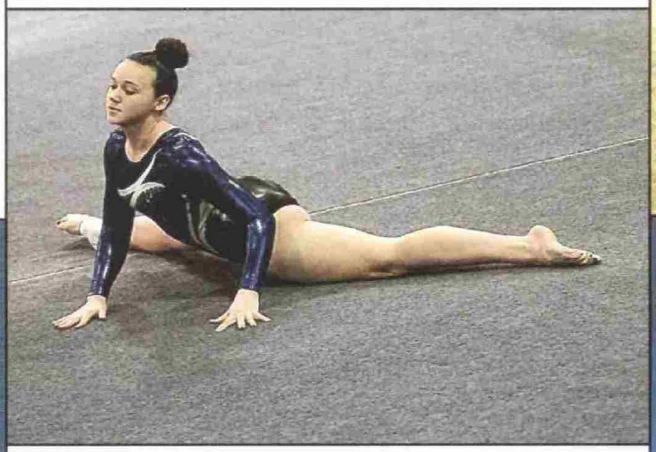


2016 Class President





Class of 2016

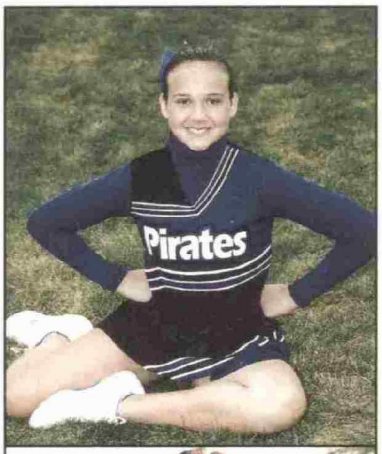


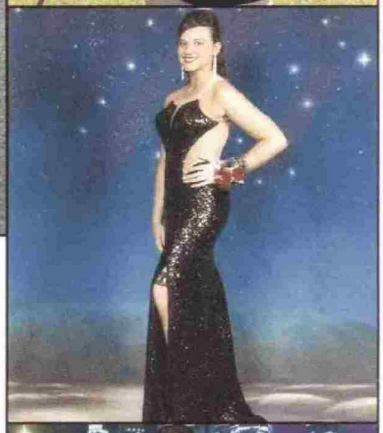
Hunter is a bright light that never seems to dim! Her days at MHS have been busy, stressful at times, fabulous and rewarding. She leaves prepared to attain her dream of becoming an anesthesiologist at IUN. Hunter, I am so proud of you and feel lucky everyday that you are mine.

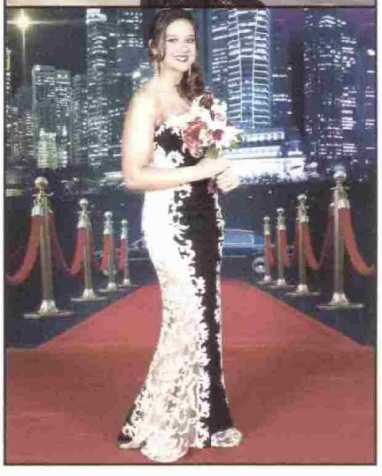
Love, Mom

Great Job!

Tyler, Matthew, Zakeary and Samanthah



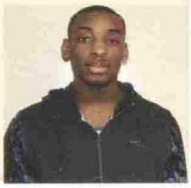




Hunter Nichole Kaiser

INDEX

Favorite sports team?
The Lakers because I love Kobe Bryant.
Freshman Isaiah Annan



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What is your dream vacation?
Going to Rio de Janeiro because of a movie I have seen.
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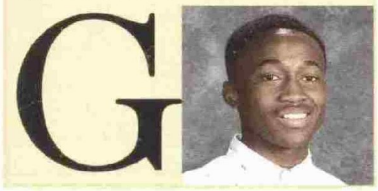
What is your weirdest memory?
When I was 13 years old, I walked into the girls' bathroom at school.
Sophomore Aaron Griggs



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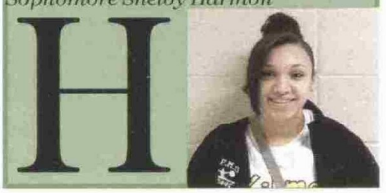
What is your guilty pleasure?
I like to mess up my brother's room so he has to clean it.
Sophomore Shelby Harmon



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What is your biggest pet peeve?
When people cut someone off. That is the rudest thing someone can do.
Senior Tammiah Ingram

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Apple vs. Android
I like Apple better because the quality is better.
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Favorite catch phrase?
I like to use "must be nice" when people are bragging too much.
Freshman Andrew Keehn

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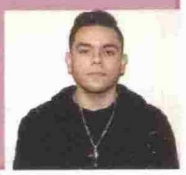
Who is your dream girl?
Shakira
Senior David Lagunas



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Junior Mariana Martinez

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Describe your dream date.
I want someone to take me to a Golden State game, get something to eat and then go home and chill.
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Favorite pick-up line?
God created the world, but you are his greatest creation.
Freshman Gabriel Ochoa

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Favorite food?
Everything because it's good. Food is life.
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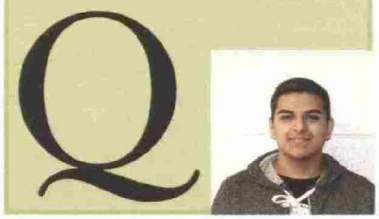
Favorite movie?
"Echo" because it was sweet how they accepted him and tried to help him.
Sophomore Edward Quintero



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Favorite song?
"My little secret" because I can relate to the song.
Junior Amiya Reina

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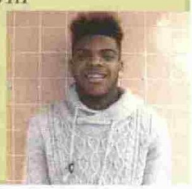
Favorite 90's cartoon?
Power Puff Girls because of Mojo JoJo. He was always saying, "I am Mojo JoJo."
Junior Carl Stokes III



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Favorite teacher?
Mrs. Pierce, because she is easy to get along with and helps you understand.
Sophomore Chardryne Tamo

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Favorite television show?
"The Flash." It is the best show. Everything else on TV is horrible.
Senior John Unmisig

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Fun fact?
I took my mom's car to McDonald's at 2 a.m. for a McChicken.
Senior Edgar Valdez

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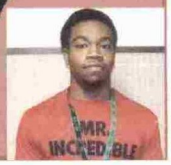
Scariest moment?
I witnessed a shooting.
Junior Emmanuel Willis



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Most memorable moment?
Track meet at regionals when we found out we made it to state.
Senior Jordan Young

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Favorite actor?
Leonardo DiCaprio.
Spanish Teacher
Mrs. Esmeralda Zamora

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Note from the editors

As the end of our junior year approached, the 2015 co-editors, Keristen Lucero and Kennedy Nunn, and the adviser, Mrs. Teresa Procter, began to look at the staff to decide who would be the editors for 2016. We decided we all wanted to be editors together.

We spent a week during the summer of 2015 at the High School Journalism Institute (HSJI) at Indiana University in Bloomington. At the beginning of the week, we didn't have many ideas about the theme of our book. With the help of our camp adviser, we decided the theme of the book would be the word "We." With our theme decided, we proceeded to plan the rest of the book. Each section of the book has a sub-theme that describes its content.

As the school year began, we had to teach journalism style to the entire staff since everyone was new. While we struggled at first, the staff began to quickly pick up how to write in our style and how to take pictures. Even though our staff was small, they pulled together and worked hard to get everything done. We all worked to create new and innovative copy, pictures and spreads.

Despite the bumps along the way, the staff was able to put together a great book that featured numerous high school memories and milestones that neither the students or staff will ever forget.

Colophon

As members of Quill and Scroll, the Indiana High School Press Association and the National Scholastic Press Association, the Merrillville High School yearbook staff presents the 91st volume of *Merrillvue*.

With the counsel of Mrs. Teresa Procter, co-editors Ashton Anekwe, Viridiana Carrillo and Ashley Mendez used their creativity to create a book that depicts the character of the students and staff at Merrillville High. Throughout the year, the entire staff helped to capture all the memorable events that go on in the school.

We'd first like to thank our adviser, Mrs. Procter, for everything she has done. Without her, the staff would not have been able to produce this yearbook for the school.

The staff would also like to thank Mr. Phil Page, our sales representative from Jostens, for his help in producing and selling the book.

Thank you to Lifetouch Inc. for taking the underclassmen, faculty and senior portraits and club pictures. Also, a special thank you to photographers Emmanual Anderson and Mrs. Janet Anderson's advanced photography class, Tom DiGrispino and Steve Itoga.

The staff also thanks the Guidance Office, secretaries in the Main Office and the Athletic Department for their assistance. Thank you to Mr. Brian Past and the PNN staff for their help in advertising the book. Also, thank you to the Technology Department.

Yearbook Staff

Co-editors: Ashton Anekwe, Viridiana Carrillo, Ashley Mendez
Lifestyle Section Editors: Terra King, Lauren Lopez
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Adviser: Mrs. Teresa Procter

The Yearbook Staff
Front row: Viridiana Carrillo, Jasmine Martinez-Santa, Cynthia Gomez, Danielle Castaneda, Elyssa Jenkins; Second row: Marcos Hernandez, Monique Yarbro, Kyra Stevens, Lauren Lopez, Ashley Mendez; Back row: Alexis Anderson, Brianna Vanderbilt, Ashton Anekwe, Timisha Ivie, Kayla Josleyn.

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